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Soviet Union unloads national debt Kremlin shares out its gold with republics

By MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE disintegration of the Soviet Union moved closer yesterday as it emerged that its gold reserves, as well as the national debt, are to be divided among the republics.

The disclosure indicates that the republics are well on their way to becoming separate economic units and each could use its share of the reserve to form individual currencies based on a gold standard.

On Tuesday, the Soviet parliament was told that arrangements were being made to divide the national debt - which could exceed 1,000 billion roubles by the end of the year - among the republics, and representatives of the Group of Seven nations meet in Moscow tomorrow to discuss the division of external debt. An agreement reached two weeks ago has broken down and the republics are still in dispute over whether the debt should be apportioned according to population or income.

The gold and precious metal

reserves, which are now controlled jointly by President Gorbachev and President Yeltsin, could be divided as early as next week, when republican leaders meet in Moscow.

Aleksandr Orlov, the chairman of the central auditing body, said that negotiations were in progress and that the Russian Federation claiming 80 per cent of the central reserves, although it is expected to have to settle for less.

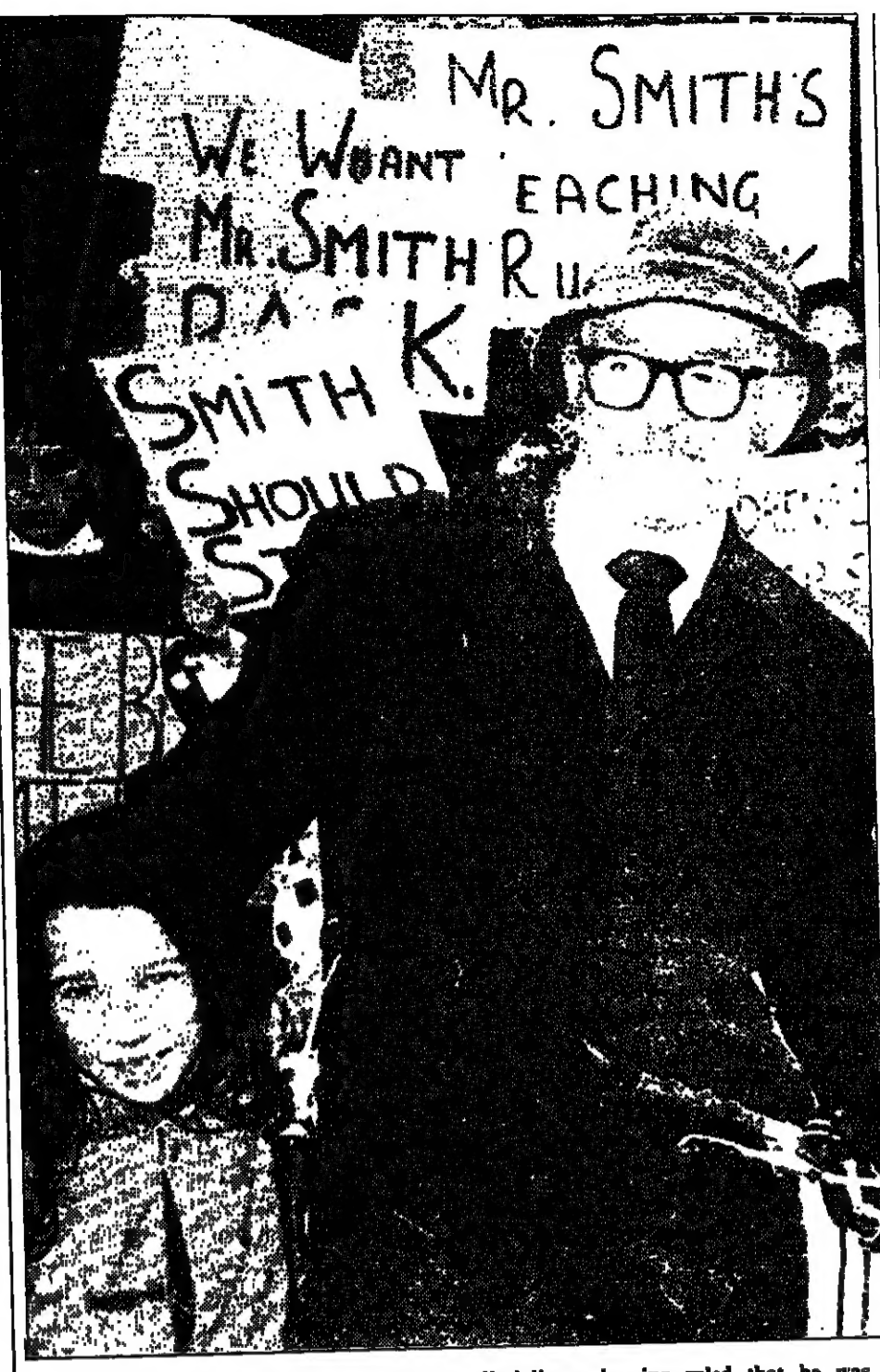
Russia produces two-thirds of the Soviet Union's gold and all of its platinum and diamonds. The central bank is the second largest producer, with a quarter of total output.

The dual control of the gold came to light when the state bank refused Mr Orlov's auditors access to information on the reserves and referred them to the Russian authorities. An aide to Mr Gorbachev's economic adviser Grigori Yavlinsky said yesterday that the joint authority had come about after a series of "consultations" between the two presidents, although there was no written agreement. Mr Yeltsin had earlier ordered the transfer of Russia's reserves to Russian vaults, and while they were still in the central vaults, that would change.

Mr Yeltsin threatened two weeks ago to take control of the state bank and its gold and currency reserves after Mr Gorbachev asked the Soviet parliament to authorise an extra 30 billion rouble credit to the central finance ministry. Mr Yeltsin claimed that the request broke the terms of last month's economic treaty. However, he swiftly dropped his demand - at least publicly - apparently because in obtaining joint control of the reserves, he had gained much of what he wanted and a promise of the rest.

The disclosures about the control of the country's gold emerged as the Moscow News published official figures on the reserves, which show how exports have risen sharply in the past three years. Mr Yavlinsky told the newspaper that the country had last year exported more than half the reserves it held on January 1.

Moscow News said, however, that reserves were dwindling at a slower pace than in the Seventies. It described how reserves were built up under Stalin, who sold almost no gold, but Khrushchev and Brezhnev sold more than the country produced each year, mostly to support pro-Soviet



Out of school: Jack Smith, the primary school teacher who claims that he has been dismissed because he uses traditional methods to teach the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic, will ask his governors and headmaster for his job back today (David Tyler writes).

Mr Smith, aged 59, who has taught at New Milton County Junior School, near Lymington, Hampshire, for 13 years, will argue against the decision of John Crisp, the headmaster, to dismiss him, after a

disciplinary hearing ruled that he was "professionally incompetent" and that children in his class were under-achieving. Parents have sent a 300-signature petition to the prime minister demanding Mr Smith's reinstatement because they believe his methods tally with the aims of Mr Major and the education secretary, for a return to traditional teaching methods.

Margot Norman, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Britain will veto any EC treaty with 'federal' goal

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

DOWNING Street yesterday warned that Britain would not sign any final treaty on European union which contained a reference to a "federal goal".

The prime minister now expects the phrase to appear in the final draft treaty for discussion in Maastricht and officials said last night that Britain would veto the treaty just for that.

In the Noordwijk negotiations on the treaty British officials suggested yesterday that the phrase would need to be replaced by a formula making clear that federalism meant decentralisation and not centralisation. Douglas

Hurd, the foreign secretary, said that those who sought a "great leap forward in integration" would be disappointed.

Ministers remain hopeful of a deal, however, and at Westminster last night the government's European policy received a boost when Sir Norman Fowler, the establishment candidate, ousted Eurosceptic MP William Cash as chairman of the Conservative backbench European affairs committee.

More significantly, the three other Euro-sceptic officers of the committee were also voted out in favour of pro-European candidates in less well publicised contests. But there were angry protests from Tory MPs over the poor organisation.

More than 250 MPs crowded into a Commons committee room for the five minutes allotted for the vote. People were jostled, some nearly knocked over, as MPs shouted demands for ballot papers. Some had several in their hands at one time while Norman Tebbit at one stage climbed on a table to say that many MPs were still without the means to record their votes.

The party leadership was anxious to organise a lower profile for Mr Cash, an indefatigable and vociferous

anti-federalist. They were determined that he should no longer carry the prestige and gain the media time available to the chairman of the committee.

Pro-Europeans have complained that he used the committee chairmanship to give an unbalanced view of Tory backbench opinion on Europe. But Mr Cash's fellow Euro-sceptics and some other backbenchers, particularly on the right of the party, resented the leadership's involvement in backbench committee affairs and campaigned for Mr Cash. After the vote last night Bob Hughes, his campaign organiser, claimed that Sir Norman had won a "substantial victory" by a margin of 3:1 or 4:1.

But Mr Cash's supporters counter-claimed that he had secured around eighty votes. Neither claim could be checked as the voting figures are kept secret by the Tory whips. Both sides agreed that the chaos had not in the end affected the vote.

Sir Norman's victory was expected. Had Mr Cash beaten him it would have been a humiliation for the party leadership after what had

Continued on page 24, col 4

Britain and Europe, page 8
Letters, page 19

Guns fall silent in besieged port city

By ANNE McELVOY IN ZAGREB AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE guns fell silent around the besieged city of Dubrovnik yesterday as Yugoslav forces held their fire to allow the evacuation of European Community monitors and hundreds of citizens. A relief vessel docked in the afternoon and is to leave today for an as yet unknown destination.

Kurds survive despair of Saddam onslaught

Tom Hardie-Forsyth, a Royal Signals captain who was a military liaison officer during Operation Safe Haven, and who resigned in June to help Kurdish refugees, describes the conditions he found on a recent visit to Kurdistan

The flattened ruins of what was once the pleasant little Kurdish town of Qala Diza call to mind visions of the apocalypse: war, famine, disease.

The field air is punctuated by the sounds of people trying to build makeshift shelters out of the twisted rubble of reinforced concrete roofs, lying like crazy-paving on the flattened walls of what had once been their homes. Operation Safe Haven, in which I took part, brought the Kurds down from the mountains, but did not make them safe from the wrath of Saddam.

In the midst of the chaos and despair, there is hope and pride: a hospital is nearing completion, built by Kurdish engineers to Kurdish plans and with Kurdish labour. Men from the town showed me round it with all the civic pride of city fathers in a new town centre.

Yet the pharmacy can barely cope with a few hundred patients, let alone the 110,000 camped round the ruins in makeshift tents.

I travelled with the peshmarga, the Kurdish rebel force, from Zakho, through Amadiyah, Diwana, Barzan and Rawandiz. We passed through increasingly wary peshmarga checkpoints as we approached the great Kurdish cultural centre of Sulaymaniyah, and Halabja, scene of the Iraqi chemical attack in 1988.

The landscape, all the way from Zakho, is dotted with the pitiful remains of the more than 4,000 villages systematically destroyed by Saddam's "final solution" to the Kurdish question: blast and bulldoze the villages, make them uninhabitable.

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Cabinet shuffle, page 11
Leading article, page 19

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, who was attending the two-day meeting of EC foreign ministers in Noordwijk, in The Netherlands, said the UN should take the initiative in ending the civil war. He said on radio: "I would hope it won't be long before we have a security council debate and a security council resolution with an oil embargo, tightening up on the arms, and empowering the secretary-general to see if he can do other things... to help bring the fighting to an end."

Dubrovnik yesterday morning was still under mortar and rocket attack from federal forces positioned around the city. At the same time it appeared the Serbian-led forces had captured key Croat positions on the hills above the city.

Hilltop withdrawal, page 10

TODAY IN THE TIMES

LEVIN'S LAST

When Bernard Levin went to his first opera, he took a note of it. Since then he has never lost the habit and this month, at the Wexford Festival, he realised he was approaching a milestone... Page 18

ENGLAND THROUGH

Gary Lineker scored a second-half equaliser against Poland in Poznan yesterday to put England's footballers through to the finals of the European Championship... Page 40

SWITCH KID

Thomas Godet as a boy who believes he was switched at birth with the boy next door in *Toto the Hero*, a film that won the best feature award at Cannes this year. Geoff Brown reviews it on... Page 17

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Lucozade scare clears shelves

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FIVE million bottles of Lucozade were removed from shops all over Britain yesterday after Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch launched an operation to prevent animal liberation supporters contaminating the drink.

Last night, seven men and three women arrested in dawn raids in Hastings, Manchester, Coventry and Northampton were still being questioned by detectives.

Police believe that they

have prevented any bottles being contaminated but have warned that activists still at large might try to plant contaminated bottles.

It is not known what form the contamination might have taken although there is speculation that it might have been only salt, vinegar or something more dangerous such as glass slivers.

SmithKline Beecham, which owns Lucozade, said it was unable to estimate the

cost of redrawing stock. Police, worried by the consequences of any contamination, decided to publicise the planned campaign, even though it would give animal rights supporters some of the publicity they were seeking.

Dr Philip Ward, spokesman for SmithKline Beecham, believed that the company was targeted as it used animals in laboratory experiments.

Consumer terrorism, page 2

£7m Orkney enquiry too costly for council

By KERRY GILL

THE costly judicial hearing into how nine Orkney children were seized from their homes after allegations of sexual abuse has called into question the system of public enquiries and their funding.

Conservative estimates have put the cost of the enquiry at more than £7 million and it emerged yesterday that Orkney Islands' council, one of the main participants, might be forced to withdraw from the hearing because of the expense. The council will decide next week whether it can afford to continue.

Alastair Scholes, Orkney's finance chairman, said that the enquiry was costing the council £36,000 a week and, if it went on until this time next year, the bill could reach £2 million. Some lawyers believe that the hearing could carry on until March 1993.

Paul Lee, the council's social work

director, has been left without representation at the enquiry after his legal team was forced to pull out this week. His costs for the past 12 weeks have been funded by the British Association of Social Workers, but the association can no longer afford to pay. The Scottish Office has refused to take over the costs. Kenneth Pritchard, the secretary of the Law Society of Scotland, described the situation as scandalous.

Orkney council may be in the same position next week, which would make a mockery of the enquiry ordered by the government in the summer. Mr Scholes said: "I have put down a motion that, unless the secretary of state agrees to meet the council and discuss funding, we should pull out. We could afford to pay, but it would mean that the cost would have to be met by poll tax payers." Poll tax would have to rise by £140 from each

charge payer next year. He said the Scottish Office underestimated the time and cost. "We have heard only about eight witnesses out of about eighty."

Mr Pritchard said: "The inordinate time and cost effectively means that the participants have got to be funded either from the Scottish Office or from some other source that has a bottomless pit of money." The government would have to address the whole question of enquiries taking so long to achieve what would probably be a straightforward outcome.

He said there was no reason why the enquiry should not be held in Edinburgh or Glasgow when hearing the more technical aspects of the case. Each week a chartered plane has to fly Lord Clyde, the enquiry chairman, and his staff to and from Orkney. Lawyers have to pay for their flights and there are accommodation costs to be considered.



Lee: council director left without legal counsel

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Haughey opponents say new minister is IRA supporter



O'Keefe: "Haughey has taken leave of his senses"

CHARLES Haughey, the Irish prime minister, faced renewed criticism from opposition leaders yesterday over allegations that his new defence minister is an IRA sympathiser.

The latest political storm in the Dáil came as Mr Haughey announced one of the biggest mid-term cabinet reshuffles in the republic's history involving eight changes and the surprise promotion of two backbenchers to full cabinet rank.

One is James McDaid from the border area of Donegal, in the northwest, who becomes defence minister after only two and a half years in the Dáil. His appointment was greeted with disbelief by Jim O'Keefe, security spokesman for

After successfully defending his leadership, the Taoiseach has run into controversy over a new appointment, Edward Gorman reports

Fine Gael, who suggested Mr Haughey had "taken leave of his senses".

Speaking in the Dáil, Mr O'Keefe said Dr McDaid was unsuitable for so sensitive a post which is central to the republic's campaign against the IRA, because Dr McDaid had provided "alibi evidence in a court of law on behalf of a Provo".

Mr O'Keefe said that, during an extradition battle two years ago involving James Pius Clarke, an IRA man who escaped from the

Maze prison in Northern Ireland in 1983 and was wanted by the RUC to complete an 18-year sentence for attempted murder, Dr McDaid had written a letter confirming that he had been with Clarke at a stag party on the night of the attempted killing.

Mr O'Keefe demanded a statement from the new minister on his views about the IRA and extradition. "What sort of signal is Mr Haughey sending to unionists by making this appointment?" Mr O'Keefe asked. "I want to know

about the case last year where he gave evidence on behalf of a Provo. What was he doing in that situation? I will not be happy with his appointment in particular because of its relevance to state security, until these questions are all cleared up."

Mr O'Keefe's allegations were endorsed by Pádraig de Rossa, leader of the Workers' Party, who said in the Dáil debate that the minister designate had been seen among a crowd of IRA sympathisers cheering outside the High Court in Dublin after Clarke was freed following the failure of extradition proceedings against him.

Dr McDaid, a respected deputy within Fianna Fáil, dismissed the

attack which he said he had expected. "I happened to be at a stag party a long time ago of a friend of mine," he said during a radio interview. "Clarke happened to be there. That is the only time he [Mr O'Keefe] could accuse me of anything like that."

Yesterday's reshuffle was being seen as having further secured Mr Haughey's position after the unsuccessful challenge to his leadership at the weekend.

The most significant move is the promotion of Bertie Ahern, minister of labour, to minister for finance, in place of Albert Reynolds, who was sacked last week. Mr Ahern, aged 40, is regarded as a strong candidate to take over from Mr Haughey who regards him

highly. Mary O'Rourke, another possible leadership candidate, has been promoted from education to health.

Michael O'Kennedy, formerly agriculture minister who equivocated over the leadership issue, has been demoted to minister for labour. In addition to Dr McDaid, the other promoted backbencher is Noel Davern, from Tipperary, who becomes minister for education.

Today Mr Haughey is expected to announce the dismissals of three junior ministers, Máire Geoghegan Quinn, Michael Smith and Noel Treacy, who were among 22 of the 77 Fianna Fáil deputies who supported the move to replace him as leader.

'The morale of the tenants is dreadful. It is a place from which people wish to escape'

Heseltine accuses Labour council of abandoning estate

By PETER DAVENPORT

INCOMPETENCE by a local authority has turned the Meadow Well estate in North Shields into a dumping ground for problem families, Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, said yesterday.

North Tyneside councillors should be ashamed for abandoning their tenants on one of the country's most disgraceful estates, he said in an unexpected statement after spending an hour on Meadow Well, the scene of riots two months ago. "The place is bombed out. The houses are empty and boarded up. The litter lies thick on the ground," Mr Heseltine said.

"The morale of the tenants is dreadful, and it is a place from which people wish to escape. That is the responsibility of the local authority. They should be ashamed of themselves."

Mr Heseltine made an unscheduled visit to the estate on his way to an urban regeneration conference in Newcastle upon Tyne. The residents he had met had been "totally despairing" of the council, and the nearest council office to which they could take complaints was two miles away.

"Don't let's have any doubts, any illusions. You have only to walk on to that estate to know what is wrong," Mr Heseltine said. "The tenants have been abandoned. That place has been used as a sink by the local authority. They dump their single-parent families there, they dump their problem families there, and they have turned their backs on them."

Mr Heseltine said that he

was not condoning the rioting, a criminal action carried out by a minority. Most tenants were law-abiding and had been extremely inadequately served by the Labour-controlled council. "I do not condone in any way what has happened, but nor do I condone the circumstances in which the local authority has allowed that estate to exist. I blame them for those conditions."

The council, he said, would say that it did not have the resources to do the necessary work, but other authorities, spending similar amounts of money, had managed. "They talk about freedom of local government. You go and see what Meadow Well looks like. I am interested in the freedom of quiet enjoyment and decent living standards for the council tenants of this country."

"But what is happening? We are being forced to bring in more and more central government programmes to make good the deficiencies. They will transform the estate in no time at all. It is the best thing that could happen to those tenants," Mr Heseltine said.

Other estates around the country were physically in worse condition than Meadow Well but were better managed, he said. "The majority of authorities manage their housing circumstances properly. It has nothing to do with the economic conditions. It is a question of whether an authority is actually competent to manage those areas for which it is responsible."

Mr Heseltine's remarks were made at a press briefing to review progress in the £412

million City Challenge, a rejuvenation project involving 11 local authorities over the next five years. In his speech, he emphasised the importance of partnership in improving the inner cities.

Stephen Byers, deputy leader of North Tyneside metropolitan borough council, said that Mr Heseltine's comments were unhelpful to attempts to rebuild the shattered community on the Meadow Well estate. There was deep regret, he said, that the secretary of state had tried to secure political advantage out of the disturbances and had expressed views which conflicted with those of the prime minister.

The Meadow Well estate was not a sink estate as described by Mr Heseltine, Mr Byers said. It was the policies of his government over the past 12 years which had led to the feelings of despair and despondency experienced on such housing estates on Tyneside and elsewhere. Such "ministerial daytrippers" to the estate could not claim to have an understanding of the problems, Mr Byers said.

Jeremy Beecan, Labour leader of Newcastle city council and chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, condemned Mr Heseltine's comments for threatening the goodwill created by the City Challenge scheme. Mr Heseltine's attack was outrageous and a descent into gutter politics, Mr Beecan said. North Tyneside council had been starved of resources and had been poll-tax capped and the attack was completely unfair.



Tyneside tour: Michael Heseltine sees burnt-out shops in the west end of Newcastle yesterday

Guy's staff win 5% pay rise

By JILL SHERMAN
SOCIAL SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

GUY'S hospital trust, the flagship of the health service reforms, yesterday announced measures to improve staff pay, reduce junior doctors' hours and cut waiting times.

The trust, which has been beset by financial difficulties, announced 600 job losses to save £6.8 million soon after it opted out of health authority control in April. Early in the summer, its financial director left by mutual agreement and, by September, it had a potential £2 million deficit at the year end.

Yesterday, trust managers insisted that its finances had turned around and it would break even this year. It was now only £1 million over-spent, with each month showing an improved financial performance, they said. Peter Griffiths, the chief executive, said that an extra £2 million would be reinvested.

All staff earning less than £4.92 an hour will get an extra £5 a week from next January, representing a 5 per cent pay rise. The 1,400 staff concerned, mainly ancillary workers, nursing auxiliaries and technical staff, who represent 20 per cent of the workforce, will also get a £30 Christmas bonus. Supervisors will get a 6 per cent rise, about £7 a week.

Mr Griffiths also gave a commitment to reduce junior doctors' hours more speedily than under national agreements. No junior doctor will work more than 72 hours a week from April 1993 and those in hard-pressed specialties would work 72 hours a week from December 1992.

Consumer terrorism

Lucozade the latest target

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Lucozade contamination plot is the latest incident in a saga of consumer terrorism costing countries or companies an estimated one billion dollars worldwide in the past decade and resulting in at least 17 deaths.

Control Risks, which advises companies on protection against contamination, said there have been 30 incidents of contamination in Britain this year, 17 last year and 48 in 1989 including the Heinz babyfood case which alone produced 700 individual reports of adulteration.

Britain has, however, rarely

seen the most dramatic effects of a crime bred by political extremism, revenge or simple blackmail. In 1982, eight people died in Chicago after a popular headache pill was laced with cyanide. The manufacturers lost \$400 million in sales and \$100 million in recalled pills.

In 1984, a Japanese contaminator, nicknamed "the man with 21 faces" after a popular television programme, began a five-year assault on 31 sweet companies which ended with five bankruptcies and costs of \$350 million. Eight Japanese died in a separate case in 1985

when fruit juice was spiked with weedkiller.

Grapefruit sales in Italy were banned in 1988 because of poison and in 1989 two Chilean grapes imported into the United States were dusted with cyanide. Twenty thousand jobs and \$240 million were lost.

The largest British cases involved Pedigree dog food, Heinz and Cow and Gate babyfood in 1989. One hundred million jars of baby food worth £32 million were taken off shelves and another 60 million were repackaged. Customers reported finding glass, drawing pins and caustic soda.

Last year, Rodney Whitehead, a former Scotland Yard detective, was jailed for 17 years for blackmailing Heinz and Pedigree into paying £3.75 million.

Animal liberation groups have dominated attacks. Most of their efforts have gone into attacks on universities, researchers, fur shops, meat distributors and restaurants. They were linked to a threat to damage Mars bars in 1982 that prompted the makers to withdraw 3,000 tons of the chocolate worth £15 million. In 1986, Bernard Matthews, the Norfolk turkey farmer, was sent turkey products laced with mercury.

The Mars incident gave the food and pharmaceutical industries their first warning of danger and prompted exchanges of information between companies.

Better surveillance has been introduced in shops and factories and legislation was introduced in 1986 to deal with contaminants.

Ten held, page 1

Rise in attacks alarms charities

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

SOME of Britain's biggest medical charities are increasingly concerned about the activities of extremists who claim to represent animals' rights. Eight groups, including the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the British Heart Foundation, formed a group earlier this week to combat activist propaganda.

So far this year, extremists have carried out more than 100 attacks on research laboratories and high street charity shops, where some staff have received death threats.

The Research for Health Charities Group, representing the eight organisations, claims that progress in medical research is impossible without the use of laboratory animals. "If we are to make advances in our understanding and treat-

ment of disease, there are no alternatives to responsible medical research, all of which involve animals at some stage," Bridget Ogilvie, director of the Wellcome Trust and chairman of the group, said.

Myc Riggsford, a spokesman for the group, said: "This latest act shows that the activists are not interested in the welfare of animals, but are prepared to terrorise innocent people. It is time more of us stood up and said we defend animal research to help cure diseases in both humans and animals."

Dr Alan Long, a former drug company scientist and now adviser to the Vegetarian Society, said: "We are dedicated to defending the welfare of animals but this kind of thing does our cause no good."

TSW has no right to appeal

Television South West yesterday failed in its High Court action to challenge the Independent Television Commission's decision not to award it a broadcasting licence.

Mr Justice Simon Brown refused to grant Plymouth-based TSW leave to seek a judicial review, saying that it was "doomed to inevitable failure". TSW was one of four television companies to lose their franchises last month in the bidding for the right to operate independent stations into the next century.

The legal action was the first to be brought by any of the losing companies and is likely to deter any of the others contemplating proceedings.

Yesterday, Geoffrey Vos, for the company, accused the commission of breaking its own rules when assessing the viability of bidders. It had "moved the goalposts" by applying tests that were more stringent than those disclosed to the bidders.

Race abuse PC to get £20,000

The Metropolitan Police is to pay £20,000 compensation to a constable who was subjected to racially derogatory remarks by fellow officers; the Commission for Racial Equality said yesterday.

The commission said the police had admitted that PC Franklyn Asumah, aged 36, was subjected to such remarks and had agreed to pay compensation. PC Asumah, who is still with the force, complained of being abused while with the Territorial Support Group at Barnes, west London.

Crime at work 'costs £10bn'

Crime at work is costing the country £10 billion a year, or the equivalent of £10 a week for every working person, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, said yesterday as he launched a crime prevention campaign.

Losses from theft, fraud, violence and arson reduced the average company's turnover by up to 5 per cent, he said. Yet one company in three had no crime prevention policy and many managers were simply unaware of the losses.

Police apology

The Metropolitan police force has formally apologised to an Asian constable who suffered racist taunts from his colleagues. Franklyn Asumah, aged 36, will receive £20,000 compensation after agreeing to the withdrawal of industrial tribunal proceedings alleging racial discrimination. Mr Asumah would remain in the force, a Scotland Yard spokesman said.

Care pledged

Plans to ensure that mentally disordered offenders receive proper care rather than being lost in the criminal justice system, were unveiled yesterday by Stephen Dorrell, junior health minister, at the annual conference of the mental health charity Mind in Blackpool. He said that mental health specialists would work with police and social workers to care for offenders and to try to keep them out of jail.

Well caught

Russell Bentley, aged 36, of Godalming, Surrey, has caught a 23lb loz rainbow trout at a fishery near Andover, Hampshire. The fish, believed to be the fourth-biggest ever caught, took 15 minutes to land.

Osman waits

Lorain Osman, Britain's longest-serving unconvicted prisoner, will learn today whether his application for habeas corpus has succeeded. He has been on remand for six years, fighting extradition to Hong Kong on a fraud charge.

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Thorpe to have brain cells implanted

By THOMSON PRENTICE
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

JEREMY Thorpe, the former Liberal leader, is to undergo a brain operation involving the implanting of foetal cells in an effort to treat his Parkinson's disease.

The operation is likely to be carried out today or tomorrow at the Midland Centre for Neurosurgery at Smethwick, near Birmingham. The hospital confirmed yesterday that Mr Thorpe, aged 62, had been admitted and would have the operation. It will be performed by Edward Hitchcock, professor of neurosurgery, who pioneered the use of the technique in Britain four years ago and has treated 48 patients with the disease.

The operation, lasting about an hour and requiring only a local anaesthetic, is regarded as experimental and its long-term effects are unclear, although it has

been hailed as an important advance in the treatment of a disease for which there is no proven cure.

Parkinson's disease is a degenerative disease of the brain in which a chemical messenger, dopamine, is depleted. Dopamine is essential for the proper control of movements and posture. Under strict ethical guidelines, brain cells from foetuses which have been aborted are injected into the patient's brain to compensate for the dopamine deficiency.

Professor Hitchcock has reported that some of his patients showed measurable alleviation of some of their symptoms. In some cases, initial improvement was not maintained and the condition continued to deteriorate, but a third of the patients are said to be doing "remarkably well".

The technique has been strongly

criticised on medical, moral and ethical grounds. In May 1988, after Professor Hitchcock had carried out his second such operation, an editorial in *The Lancet* called for a halt, pending long-term evaluation of the effects on what it called a "notoriously variable" illness.

Anti-abortionists have claimed that the operation could lead to the exploitation of aborted foetal tissue. According to British Medical Association guidelines, women having an abortion should give their consent to the use of foetal material for medical purposes. The material may be used only in cases of therapeutic or spontaneous abortion, and the method of the abortion and its timing must not be influenced by the possibility that the material may be required.

Health, page 15

Parents 'abused daughters in black magic rituals'

By BILL FROST

TWO sisters were subjected to long-term sexual abuse by their parents and other adults during black magic rituals in Epping Forest, a Central Criminal Court jury was told yesterday.

The children, now aged 10 and 14, were compelled to drink the blood of a rabbit from a two-handled chalice while naked as masked "devil worshippers" danced around them, Michael Lawson, QC, for the prosecution, said.

The girls were taken at night from their home in east London to a stone monument in a forest clearing, he said. A candle was placed on the stone, bonfires were lit and the children were abused against a background of chanting. Mr Lawson said that the name "Lucifer" was intoned by the satanists and readings were made from a book.

Five people, including the

girls' parents, are on trial variously facing a total of 20 charges, dating back to 1982, which include rape, buggery, indecent assault and conspiracy to indecently assault. In the dock with the children's father, aged 44, and mother, aged 35, are two men, aged 58 and 63, and a woman, aged 57.

The girls' father has denied 11 charges, five of rape, three of indecent assault, one of conspiracy to commit indecent assault, and two of buggery. His wife denied six charges, two of aiding and abetting rape, three of indecent assault and one of conspiracy to commit indecent assault.

Mr Justice Turner, the judge, made an order banning publication of material which might identify the girls.

Prosecuting counsel said that in September last year the older child had begun disclos-

ing details of what she and her sister had suffered. The child had described being taken at night from her home to a stone monument decorated with a black cross, candles and stars. Two horns had been laid across the top of the stone. "A cup with two handles, like a chalice in a church, would be used and people would arrive dressed in black, with a bonfire and readings from a book. And in the background a terrible humming noise," Mr Lawson said.

The child remembered being given a drink tasting of weak orange juice which she said made her feel "sexy" before she fell asleep. She recalled waking up, in a car or by the stone, "feeling sore" and hearing "devil names" being used: Lucifer, and another, "Lucillus".

When similar rituals took place at their east London home, the girls would be called downstairs to the living room where adults would sexually abuse them, it was alleged. The children's mother and the other female defendant were said to have played an "integral part" in the ritual assaults.

Mr Lawson said the ceremonies would start with a rabbit having its neck slashed and the blood poured into a chalice which was then passed around among the devil worshippers.

At the end of the forest ceremony, the eldest child said, babies were put on the stone and killed. The executioner, the sisters' godfather, would either plunge a knife into them or cut their throats. Sometimes, the girl said, the killer made the two sisters dismember the bodies.

The jury was shown drawings by the younger child depicting the events she claimed to have seen. Both sisters said that other children they did not recognise took part in the rituals.

The court was told that the children had not spoken of their ordeal earlier because one of the defendants had cut up a rabbit in front of them and said they could expect the same fate if they spoke out. The trial continues today.



Stephen Owen, accused of trying to murder Kevin Taylor, right, the hit and run driver who killed his son



Grieving father 'driven to revenge'

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE psychological effects of losing his son in a hit-and-run accident drove a grieving father to revenge two years later, a court was told yesterday.

Stephen Owen, aged 36, traced the driver of the tipper truck that killed his son, aged 12, and shot him outside his home, Sittingbourne magistrates, Kent, were told.

Andrew McCooley, his solicitor, asked for reporting restrictions to be lifted as Mr Owen, of the Isle of Sheppey, Kent, was charged with attempting to murder Kevin Taylor and of causing grievous bodily harm with intent to Alison Barrett, Mr Taylor's girl friend, last Saturday. He was remanded in custody for a week.

Mr McCooley told the bench chairman, John Jennings, that Mr Owen was still psychologically affected by the death of his son Darren who was killed by a 20-tonne tipper truck driven by Mr Taylor in October 1989. Mr Taylor was recently released after serving an 18-month sentence for causing Darren's death. Mr McCooley said that Mr Taylor should not have driven the lorry because he had never held a licence.

The solicitor said that a report for the Norwich Union insurance company had caused Mr Owen to lose control. The report alleged that Mr Owen exaggerated his emotional difficulties and suggested that his wife,

Marilyn, "responded excessively" to bereavement.

Mr McCooley said that Mr Owen had left home on Saturday evening with a sawn-off shotgun. He found Mr Taylor walking with Miss Barrett near their home. Mr Owen jumped out of his car, and pointed the gun at Mr Taylor. "To his shock, Taylor pulled his common law wife in front of him and used her as a shield," Mr McCooley said.

He continued: "My client shouted 'Leave her alone, leave her alone. It's you I want to deal with.'" Mr Taylor let go and Mr Owen fired from 25 yards. Some pellets hit Miss Barrett. "Injuring Barrett was not his intention," Mr McCooley

said. Mr Taylor turned to run, but at a range of 40ft, Owen fired again, this time hitting him in the lower left back. Mr McCooley said: "He intended to hit him, but not to kill him. He wanted to make him feel the hurt he and his family have been feeling."

Bail was opposed by the prosecutor, Kenneth Goss, who said that there was the chance of another attack on Mr Taylor. Mr Owen, who gave himself up to police on Tuesday, three days after the shooting, might run away, Mr Goss said. Mr McCooley replied that Mr Owen had no intention of doing anyone any further harm. "He has done what he felt he had to do,"

THE judge leading the investigation into the death of Robert Maxwell tried yesterday to quell speculation over how he died and whether it was before or after he fell from his yacht.

Isabel Oliva, who heads the enquiry in the Canary Islands, said there was nothing in the preliminary report from the six-hour post-mortem examination carried out by three pathologists on Gran Canaria to suggest that he spent four hours in the water before he died. However, she reiterated earlier comments that she had not ruled out any possible cause of death.

The results of tests in Seville and Madrid on blood and organ samples are unlikely to be known for a fortnight. Only then will the judge be able to rule out categorically the possibilities that Mr Maxwell had been drinking and fell overboard, was injected with a drug or was poisoned.

Some of the tests, which include the routine one into samples taken from under fingernails to see if the publisher had been involved in a struggle, are being duplicated in London by Iain West, a Home Office pathologist, who is conducting a private enquiry for insurance companies who face a possible payout of £20 million.

Some of the nine Britons, one Dane and one American who comprise the crew of the yacht, Lady Ghislaine, went to see the judge yesterday to ratify statements originally made to police. All will be questioned again and asked to sign statements by Keith Hazell, British consul on Tenerife, on behalf of the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen in Cardiff, who has to register the death.

Roy Osborne, press attaché in the British embassy in Madrid, who has flown to Tenerife to deal with enquiries, said: "That is purely a formality and we have no role in establishing Mr Maxwell's cause of death. There really is no focal point to the Spanish investigation, and that is giving rise to speculation feeding on speculation, which is quite understandable but does not really help establish the facts."

Health, page 15

Amateur boxer fights for life

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

AN AMATEUR boxer was fighting for his life yesterday after surgery to remove a blood clot from the brain as the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC) discussed measures to make the sport safer.

Kian Kwok Lee, aged 23, is on a life support system at Southampton general hospital after collapsing in the first round of a welterweight fight in Portsmouth after difficulties with his headguard.

The incident comes less than eight weeks after Michael Watson, aged 26, who is still in a coma, collapsed with a brain haemorrhage at the end of his WBO super-middleweight title fight against Chris Eubank.

That prompted a safety review by the BBBC, which is expected to announce today that there will be ambulances and paramedics at all professional fights, more stewards, and fewer people in rings at the end of bouts. Some of the proposals examined by the BBBC have been made by Peter Hamlyn, the neurosurgeon treating Watson.

David Brown, aged 47, Lee's trainer and chairman of the Hove boxing club in East Sussex, said he would give up boxing after 36 years as he recounted the incident on Tuesday night at the Stacey boxing club, Portsmouth.

Mr Brown said: "Lee's head guard got knocked off in a flurry of punches. The referee gave him a standing count of eight and I fixed the guard."

However, it worked loose again in another exchange of punches with his opponent Dave Brennan, aged 20, and Mr Brown again tightened it.

"I said to Lee, 'Are you all right?'" Mr Brown said. "He said he was okay but he had been hit with a good one in the stomach. The referee put them together again and he just collapsed without a punch being thrown. He lost consciousness straight away."

The charity boxing evening, in front of 200 people, was abandoned after the incident in the sixth of 11 bouts. Joe Lewis, secretary of the Amateur Boxing Association, said a full enquiry would be held.

Airlines clash over dwindling air slots

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

VIRGIN Atlantic tried to force British Airways yesterday to hand over one of its services to Tokyo, in a foretaste of the battles to come as airlines squabble over the dwindling numbers of take-off and landing slots at the world's congested airports.

Richard Branson, Virgin's chairman, told a hearing at the Civil Aviation Authority that he should be allowed to operate a daily service, rather than the six a week he now has, between Heathrow and Narita airport at Tokyo if he was to compete fairly with British Airways, Japan Airlines and All Nippon.

The problem is that the Japanese government will not allow any more flights into Narita, and Virgin says it is up to British officials to decide which airline should take up the slots allocated to Britain.

British Airways flies 13 services a week on the route, two more than in the summer. BA says the two additional services were made

possible only because it gave up a stopping service to Osaka and because the government negotiated two additional direct trans-Siberian flights on their behalf. Virgin maintains that this effectively means that two new frequencies have been made available and it should have one of them.

Mr Branson said: "Ours is the only non-daily service between London and Japan. To be a real business airline, you have to have a daily service." Robert Ayling, BA's marketing director, rejected the demand, accusing Virgin of seeking to transfer profits from BA.

Behind the arguments set out yesterday lie two unresolved problems: who owns take-off and landing slots, and how can small airlines expand when airports are full? Virgin maintains that the slots are the property of governments to distribute fairly, while BA claims that they should be bought and sold on the open market.

Stable ruins win dubious honour

By JOHN YOUNG

A DERELICT complex of stables and kennels, built in 1856 for the then master of the Quorn hunt, has been adjudged the "winner" of a competition to find the most neglected historic buildings in Britain.

Designed in the Jacobean style for the 7th Earl of Stamford, they once housed the Quorn horses and hounds in palatial splendour in the grounds of Bradgate House, in Groby, Leicestershire, which was built in the same year but demolished in 1926. Although grade II listed, they have been disused for many years and allowed to fall into disrepair.

Hinckley and Bosworth borough council said yesterday that it had planned to serve a repairs notice on the present owners, Redland Aggregates, but it had been held in abeyance as the company had said it was anxious and willing to carry out repairs.



Falling from grace: the Bradgate House stables

George Phillipson, chairman of Redland, said yesterday that the company had acquired the buildings in the mid-1960s, at which time there was a quarry in the grounds. The quarry is no longer worked.

The stable block had been vandalised during the last war and subsequently stripped of its lead fittings by its owner. At the time it was listed, about two years ago, it

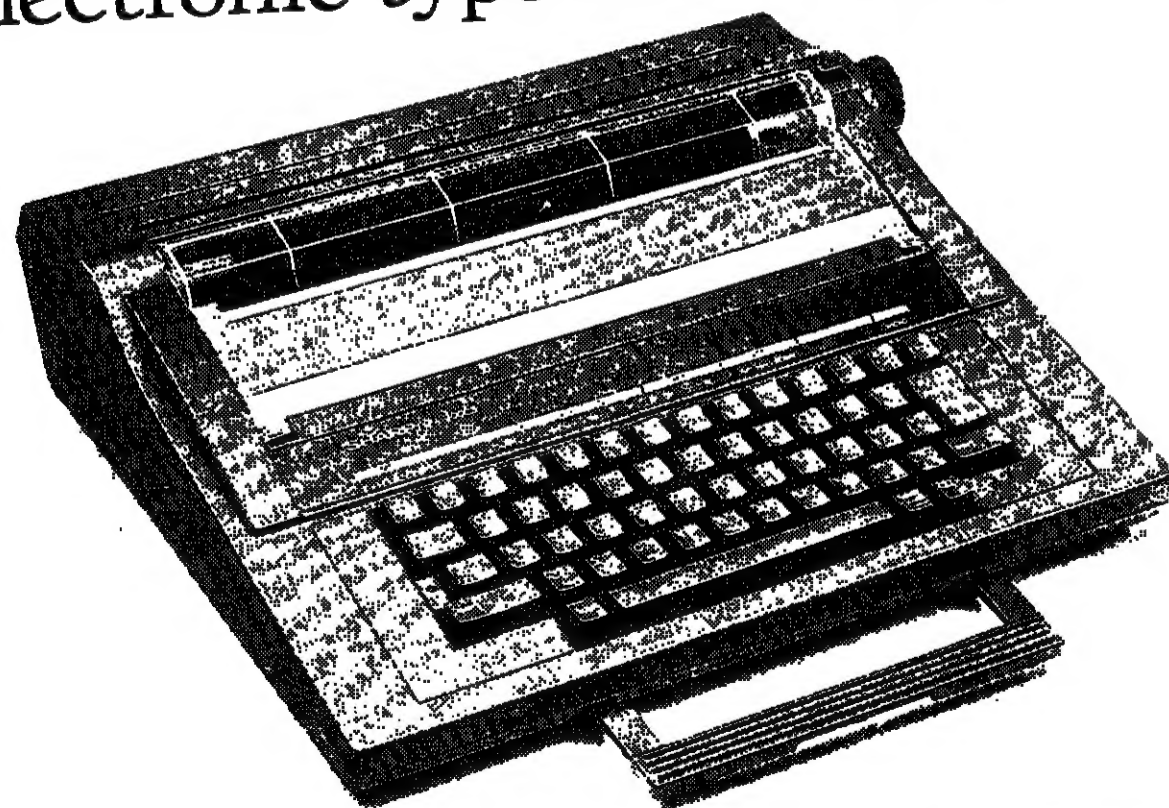
was described as a ruin. "We have had considerable discussions with the council, and our plan is to preserve it in the state it was in when it was listed, namely a ruin," Mr Phillipson said. "To say that we have neglected it is ridiculous. How do you repair a ruin?"

The winning entry in the competition, organised by the conservation group Save Britain's Heritage, was

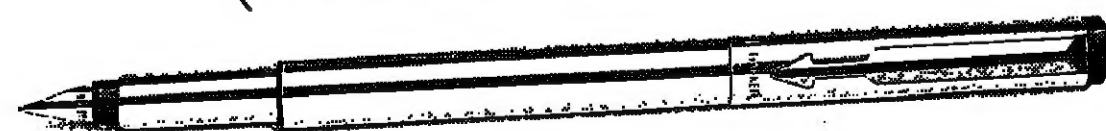
submitted by Andrew Muir, of Coventry. The most neglected building in London, submitted by the Richmond Society, was declared to be the bombed shell of the Doughty picture gallery, which once housed one of the most remarkable private art collections in Britain, but is now empty and shrouded in undergrowth.

The prize for the most interesting and varied list of neglected buildings in London went to Alex Starkey, who photographed 14 empty buildings in Lambeth, most of them in public ownership, including the old fire station, the public baths and laundries and a number of properties in Lambeth Walk. Other commended entries were the Kursaal in Southend-on-sea, Essex, the Shire Hall in Nottingham, the former county hall in Derby, Barry town hall and public library in South Glamorgan, and Gelston Castle, near Dumfries.

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MPs and clergy plan bill to make church ordain women

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of MPs and clergy in the Church of England is proposing to put a bill before Parliament which would force the church to ordain women should the general synod turn down the idea next year.

Emma Nicholson, the MP and a former vice-chairman of the Conservative Party, has agreed to sponsor the bill. Mrs Nicholson, recently elected vice-moderator of the Movement for the Ordination of Women, said: "I could put a private member's bill forward and if it got all-party support it would go through." She plans to form an all-party group in Parliament in support of women priests.

The Rev Martin Leigh, a member of the general synod's standing committee, disclosed the scheme as the group Cost of Conscience circulated proposals, should the church vote to ordain women, for traditionalist congregations whose bishops carried out such ordinations to apply for supervision by bishops who oppose women priests.

Mr Leigh, a member of the Archbishops' Commission for Rural Areas, has taken legal

advice on the proposed bill and said: "What we are trying to put in place is members of parliament who would be prepared to support the move to ordain women. The church is by law established. Therefore it can be changed. The bill is more than a gesture. It does have a chance of success."

The Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure reaches its final synod vote next November, when it requires two-thirds majorities from the houses of bishops, clergy and laity. Supporters of the mea-



Nicholson plans all-party support for women priests

sure consider the first two are certain to provide such majorities, but Mr Leigh said that the House of Lords could be up to ten votes short, not including those still to make up their minds. "If the ordination of women is lost next November, a lot of people are going to be very, very cross and a head of steam will build up," he said.

A spokesman at Church House described the idea of a bill as "ingenious and, in theory, legal". The proposals are at an early stage and likely to be disclosed in full after the general election next year.

Although legal, the move would be considered improper by many in the church in view of the 1919 Enabling Act, which devolved legislative powers from Parliament to the then newly created Church Assembly, now the General Synod.

Professor McClean, chairman of the House of Laity, is piloting the ordination of women's measure through the synod. He said that the legislation was supported by more than two-thirds of the Church of England members consulted. "It might still fail at the end of the day but the volume of support is encouraging."

If it did fail, he said, it was more likely that the synod would be dissolved and re-elected and the measure put through again. Synods usually sit for five years between elections.

According to recent research by the Archbishops' Commission on Rural Areas, 89 per cent of churchgoers support women's ordination, including 15 per cent who are strong supporters. Supporters of the synod measure are also pinning their hopes on future by-elections to the synod, which could affect the make-up of the laity house.

If the parliamentary bill were successful, it could result in calls for disestablishment of the church from those who believe that it should have the freedom to make its own laws.



Saving grace: lifeguard Tracey Jones, aged 20, looking out at heavy seas off Blackpool's north pier, near where she rescued a girl in rough weather. Today she receives a Royal Life Saving Society certificate from Kenneth Baker

UN panel backs lifting of ivory ban

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

SOUTH Africa should be allowed to resume trading in ivory, according to a United Nations panel of wildlife-trade experts, whose report has been sent to governments around the world.

The recommendation, to be put to a conference next March that will review the two-year international trading ban, will arouse bitter opposition from environmentalists, who fear that any reopened market will open the gates to elephant poachers throughout Africa.

The UN panel has delivered a technical assessment of South Africa's application to resume trading its own ivory stocks, which will be made to the meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in Japan. They conclude that South Africa's elephant population of just under 9,000 is not significantly threatened by poachers and is managed at a stable level, which controlled culling would not affect. They recommend that trading in ivory be allowed if strict controls are put in place.

However, the report will be regarded as fatally flawed by environmental campaigners for its own admission that South Africa would not be able to prevent "a certain level of illegal ivory trade" through its territory from other countries. In practice, those countries might include other African states whose elephant populations have been endangered by poachers.

To try to prevent such trade completely would be unrealistic, the report says, given the volume of freight passing through South Africa.

This was one of the major criteria laid down for the panel to address, yet they have simply ignored it," said Allan Thornton, of the London-based Environmental Investigation Agency, whose research work did much to bring about international support for the ban in 1989. "So long as there is a legal ivory market somewhere, poachers will try to smuggle ivory into it."

African elephant numbers collapsed from an estimated 1.5 million in 1979 to about 600,000 ten years later, but there is evidence that the decline has been halted by the ivory ban.

Simon Lyster, of the World Wide Fund for Nature, said: "Poaching seems to have lessened in most of Africa since the ban came into force. Our view is that it is far too early to resume trading in ivory. It would give entirely the wrong signals to poachers."

Tony Baldry, the junior environment minister who will be representing Britain at the CITES meeting, said last night: "We are firmly committed to maintaining the ivory trade ban for as long as it is necessary to ensure the survival and recovery of elephant populations."

Roy and Diane Lloyd-Roberts, from Clacton, Essex, yesterday launched the Rainforest Action Fund, to help protect the world's vanishing forests. The £12 membership fee will help to fund research projects, initially into the Budongo forest in western Uganda, where the chimpanzee population is endangered.

Tourists warned of gas hazards

Almost one in three holiday apartments in Spain and Portugal has potentially lethal gas installations, a survey says.

A total of 5,000 villas and apartments were covered in the survey last month and about 1,500 were judged to have potentially lethal installations. Roy Drury, a gas safety expert, said. Owners' Abroad, a British holiday company, has taken several properties off its list.

Nigel Griffiths, Labour MP for Edinburgh South, said urgent action was needed before more people were killed. Listing Britons who had died abroad of gas poisoning, Mr Griffiths said: "None of their families got any help from the Spanish authorities and the British authorities were little better."

Bailiffs evict pub landlady

Joie Williams, a pub tenant from Ebbw Vale, Gwent, barricaded herself inside her public house after she refused to sign a new 20-year lease that included a weekly rent rise from £300 to £800. Bailiffs broke into the pub with a sledgehammer yesterday morning and its owner, Grand Metropolitan, installed a temporary manager. Mrs Williams said she intended to seek compensation for the £45,000 she said she had invested in the pub.

Sale tops £2m

The total raised by the three-day sale at Castle Howard, North Yorkshire, was £2,025,248, more than twice the initial estimate by Sotheby's. The top price in yesterday's bidding was £5,060 for a pair of 19th century carved oak benches, which duplicate a pair in the Castle Howard chapel. The money raised will go towards restoring antiques not yet on display in the house.

Cambridge first

Cambridge University yesterday ended a tradition of more than 400 years by choosing Sir David Williams, president of Wolfson College, as its first full-time vice-chancellor. Sir David will be the last to hold the office simultaneously with another senior post in the university. Next October he will relinquish college duties to act as the university's effective chief executive until he retires in 1996.

Verdict upheld

An appeal by the *Daily Mirror* against a libel verdict in favour of the boxing promoter Frank Warren was dismissed by the Court of Appeal yesterday. The jury's £10,000 damages award, frozen pending appeal, will now be paid to Mr Warren, with interest. He was also awarded the costs of the appeal. He had sued over an article that said he "started in the gutter".

A cut above

The Q Guild of butchers, a co-operative of 145 independent butchers, was last night awarded the Grand Prix of Gastronomy by the British Academy of Gastronomes.

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Long-running trial raises right to lead own defence

The case of the crown vs Denis Morley is likely to run and run. Craig Seton and Frances Gibb examine the implications

THE judicial system has become accustomed to long trials and the crown case against Denis Jacob Morley looks like being one of the longest. At the present rate, it is set to break all legal records.

It started at Coventry crown court almost seven months ago and is fully expected to be going on well into 1992. Meanwhile, the costs continue to mount.

The trial has aroused considerable interest in legal circles as Mr Morley is not professionally represented by counsel. He has chosen to exercise his common law right to defend himself on three counts of burglary, allegedly committed as long ago as autumn 1988.

In the exercise of this right, Mr Morley has not only prepared his own defence, but court officials have made arrangements to enable him to cross-examine witnesses from the dock. So far only a dozen or so of more than 100 witnesses due to be called by Mr Morley have given evidence.

When the four women and eight men on the jury were sworn in on May 20, they were told to prepare for a hearing of about nine months. This now

mandated in custody while the trial progresses. He is on legal aid and has a solicitor who is often in court. In front of Mr Morley sits a "noting brief", a junior counsel whose job is to write down a record of the proceedings for his benefit. He is entitled to that service, and it is provided through legal aid. The present noting brief is the tenth to have taken notes for him.

A defendant's right to conduct his own defence is a common-law right going back centuries. *Archbold* says that where, at the start of a trial, a defendant expresses a desire to conduct his own defence, he should be allowed to do so and counsel should not be assigned to him against his will.

A judge faced with a defendant representing himself has an extremely difficult task. There are no rules or time limits in criminal trials for the conduct of proceedings or the cross-examination of witnesses, and it is entirely within the judge's discretion how long to allow any part of the trial to run.

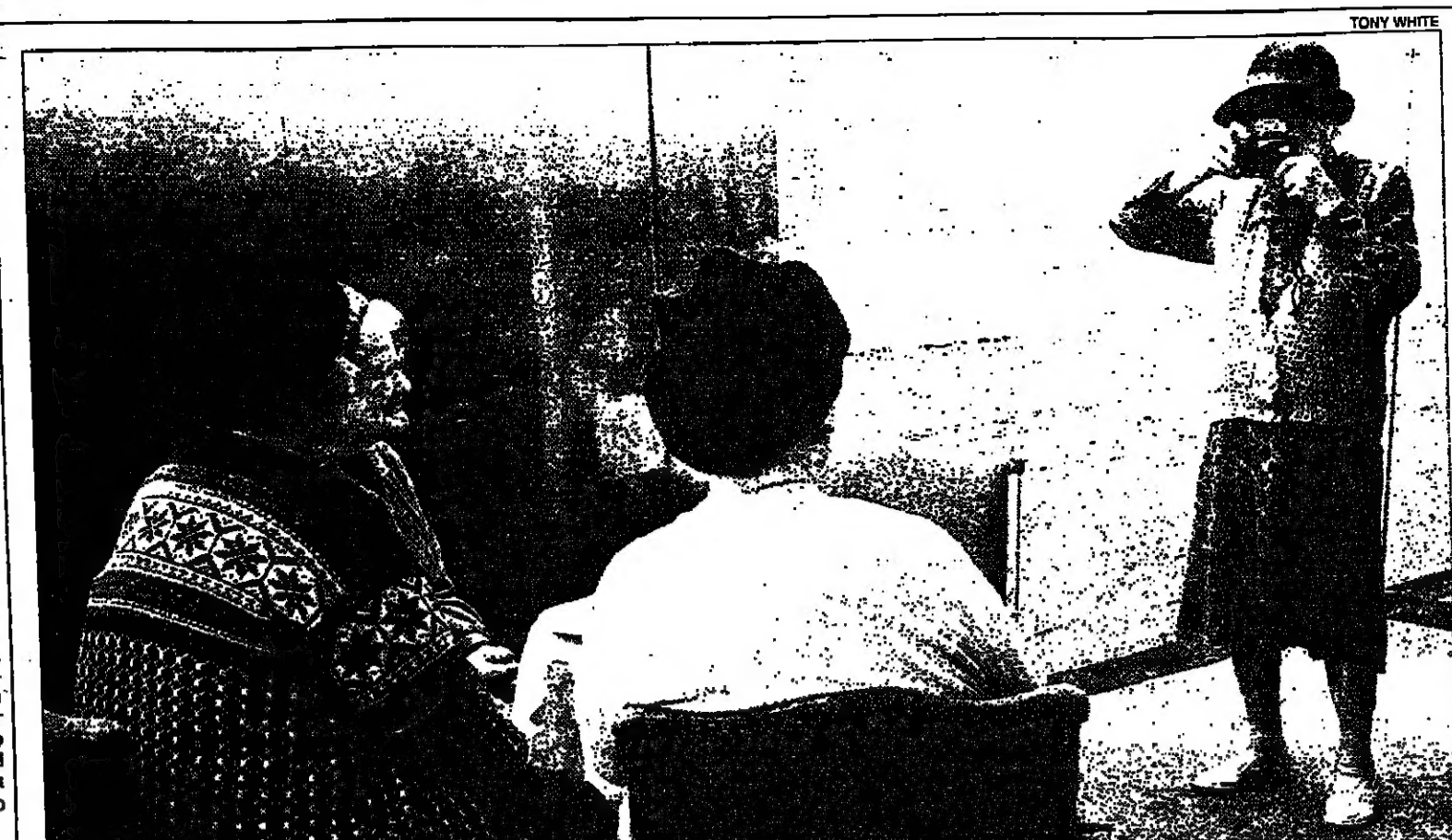
In civil proceedings, judges frequently cut lawyers short or indicate they have heard enough of a particular argument. With a defendant representing himself on a criminal charge, however, as with litigants in person in civil cases, judges are obliged to bend over backwards to be fair — and they do. Otherwise, there is a risk of an appeal on the ground that the defendant or litigant had not been granted a fair hearing.

Judge Nicholl has made frequent observations about the passage of time during the hearing. One local solicitor, Giles Peppercorn, of the Birmingham firm John Morgan, believes that a defendant's right to conduct his own trial raises legitimate cost issues. While there may be a saving in lawyers' fees, a defendant representing himself may be less expert at condensing issues and therefore the trial can take longer. Given that some crown court trials can cost more than £5,000 a day, he wants the Lord Chancellor to look into the matter.

Meanwhile, the hearing goes on. The jury reassembled on Tuesday after being sent out of court almost two weeks ago. Judge Nicholl told the jurors that, since then, he had heard a number of legal submissions from Mr Morley, on which he had ruled last Tuesday. "He [Mr Morley] then said the strain of presenting his case was too great and asked for a few days' rest. I granted him an adjournment until this morning."

The judge said he was sorry that the jury had not been given notice of the break. It was possible there would be further time off, but he could not be specific. He added: "It may happen. It may not. If it is going to happen, we will endeavour to give as much notice as possible."

Then it was on to the next witness, the proprietor of a guest house in Barnstaple, Devon.



TONY WHITE

And granny came too

WITHOUT doubt it was the children's day. But it was a day for proud grandmothers too, taking photographs of each other and sipping champagne at the Savoy (Ray Clancy writes).

They were with the families who yesterday saw their courageous and talented children presented with awards by the Princess of Wales at the annual Champion Children lunch in aid of the charity Barnardo's. Twenty-four winners travelled to London after a panel of celebrity judges chose them for their bravery, caring qualities or sporting, musical and artistic talents. Mark Lepine, aged ten, who won a bravery

award, told how he twice saved his sister Emma, aged seven, from injury.

Two years ago the family van was in an accident and Mark, pictured right, threw himself in front of an umbrella that was about to hit his sister in the eye. A few months later Emma's clothes caught fire as she stood too close to a gas fire and Mark tore off her jumper

and dress and probably saved her life. Three children sat next to the princess during the lunch. Idris Newham, aged 15, from London, confined to a wheelchair by acute Duchenne muscular dystrophy, told her how he went with his family on an adventure holiday around Europe in a plywood catamaran that he steered.

The princess was also joined by Daniel Bates, aged 16, from Bromley, Kent, honoured for his outstanding piano, oboe and violin playing, and Rebecca Steer, aged eight, from Walsingham, who wants to be a professional ballerina.



Action is lifted on doctor

Health chiefs yesterday withdrew disciplinary action against Dr Shirley Hoyes, a child psychiatrist, who was suspended by Rotherham health authority council in 1987 for allegedly following incorrect procedures in dealing with child abuse cases.

Dr Hoyes, aged 64, who has been paid more than £150,000 to stay at home and was due to retire within six months, will retire immediately under an agreement with Trent regional health authority.

Trent launched an enquiry into the claims but no disciplinary action was ever taken.

Trauma award

Jacqueline MacQueen, aged 32, of Croydon, southwest London, was yesterday awarded £103,750 damages in the High Court after suffering nervous shock when she saw her mother, on whom she was dependent, killed by a dustcart. Croydon council agreed the damages.

Seals return

Grey seals have returned to the Bristol Channel at Clevedon Bay, Avon, near the former sewage outlets that drove them away.

Park and ride

Policemen on horseback are to patrol car parks in Nottinghamshire after a spate of vehicle thefts.

No mystery

Jim and Betty Marran ended up in their home town of Wakefield on a mystery trip.

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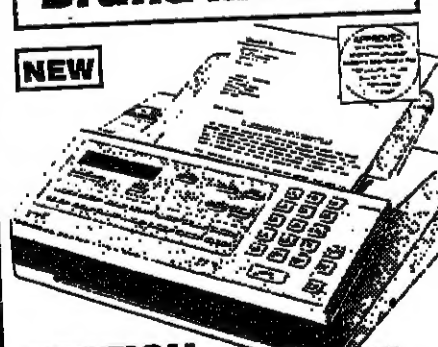
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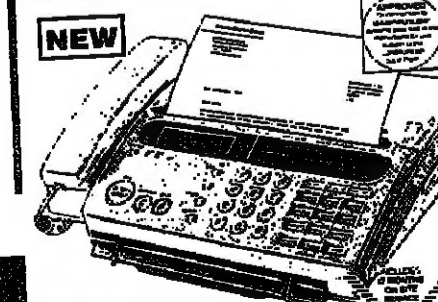
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BR puts a clamp on honest parker

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

PETER French, the owner of an insurance broking firm in the City, was less than amused when he alighted from the 19.37 InterCity train at Manningtree in Essex (10 minutes late; leaves on the line) to find his car had been clamped.

Mr French had already paid £75 for a quarterly parking ticket, which was displayed as always on his Audi's dashboard in the station car park.

The dreaded "Denver boot" had been applied in spite of station records which showed he had paid to park. As a result of the case, the RAC yesterday renewed its call for government legislation to control private clamping.

British Rail and Metropolitan Parking, who apply the boot to commuters' cars parked illegally at the station, refused to release the vehicle unless he paid £30. Mr French, aged 37, declined and left the vehicle there overnight. After further complaints to BR, the local police and British Transport police, the car was unclamped in time for his return from work the following night.

Mr French said yesterday: "I couldn't believe what had happened and trying to get it sorted out was impossible because I had terrible trouble trying to make contact with the clampers. The season ticket was in clear view to anyone who cared to look on the dashboard on the passenger side. I was soaking wet but I was damned if I was going to pay."

Bryan Swanson, the RAC's senior legal adviser, said: "This is yet another example of the extraordinary situations that arise from the lack of clear legislation controlling private clamping."

British Rail said it was sorry that Mr French had been inconvenienced; staff had not seen his season ticket on the dashboard.

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Baker to consider church protests on asylum bill

By PETER MULLIGAN AND ROBERT MORGAN

THE government is ready to consider the misgivings of senior churchmen about the asylum bill, Kenneth Baker, home secretary, said yesterday.

He told the Commons during second reading of the legislation: "I am certainly prepared to consider those representations as the bill is being debated before the House. But I would expect

that those who argue for an alternative procedure to demonstrate that they would not add to the scope for abuse and delay."

He was responding to a letter in *The Times* by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster who expressed concern that the appeals procedure in the bill would be too tight and would not pay enough regard to individual circumstances.



Hattersley: Archbishops and Labour share view

Ray Hattersley, the shadow home secretary, said that the two archbishops had taken the same view as the Opposition, that the bill provided an inadequate appeals system. He attacked the proposal to withdraw the green form legal aid procedure for refugees and asked whether the government intended to contest in the courts the claim of the Campaign for Racial Equality that the move breached the race relations act.

Mr Baker insisted that the bill would speed the determination process, ensure that genuine cases were promptly identified and that rejected applicants left the country. He

defended the proposal to fingerprint all applicants and disclosed figures of multiple applications. Eight applicants had made 100 asylum and social security applications between them, he said, and one had had 49 identities and another had had 34. A forgery kit had been found including false letters and birth certificates. He added: "There are over 100 cases under investigation."

Overall, applicants would exceed 50,000 this year, three times the figure seeking entry into the United Kingdom only three years ago. "It is not scaremongering or playing the numbers game to recognise and respond to changes on this scale," he said.

Mr Hattersley said that bogus asylum seekers had to be prevented from entering the country. But under the bill some men and women would be forced to return to their own countries to face torture and possibly death. The government's obsession with unjustified claims for asylum had overruled whatever conscientious concern they might have had for genuine refugees.

He attacked the home secretary for "regaling the House with Conservative club tit-battle" about the number of abuses. The bill was arbitrary, partial and to some extent retrospective. Its provisions regarding documents contravened the UN convention.

□ **Human rights:** The government's proposals for asylum seekers were likely to result in an adverse ruling from the European Court of Human Rights if they were not thrown out by the House of Lords, Anthony Scrivener, QC, chairman of the Bar said yesterday (Frances Gibb writes). He called for the bill to be scrapped and put a package of alternative proposals to the home secretary.

He said that the bill would result in genuine refugees being sent home and tortured and that he believed it would not be long before a case on the new procedures came before the European court. As the court had held recently that the present procedures were fair, it was likely to rule adversely on the new ones.

Leading article, page 19



Mr Nice Guy talks tough

By ROBERT OAKLEY

In Europe, John Major has always maintained, it is not just what you say that matters but the way you say it. Hence the charm offensive with Herr Kohl, the German Chancellor, and others.

Style and tone matter in the House of Commons too, and on Tuesday he employed a much sharper tone. After his warning on Monday to potential Euro-rebels that there was a price to be paid for isolation in the European Community, it offered the first evidence of a more combative streak.

According to those close to him, the prime minister, who has traded so far on being Mr Nice Guy, has registered that Margaret Thatcher's election victory was built not on affection but on respect. The people who voted her in were the same people who complained most of the time between elections about "that bloody woman" and who showed in opinion polls that they cared little for the core tenets of Thatcherism. When it came to marking an X they cared more about leadership than which way it was leading Britain.

The irony is that most of those who have been urging Mr Major to unfurl the battle standard and show the party drifters which way to lurch have done so hoping that he would be battling against a Maastricht deal on the terms likely to be available. He has instead given new hope to the Europhiles.

Mr Major, those close to him say, has been constrained so far by the need to conceal his negotiating hand. But as that emerges in the pre-Maastricht manoeuvring he feels a greater freedom to speak out as he feels.

The Tory hierarchy has realised that the time has come to start upsetting a few people and has shown itself willing to take the not inconsiderable risk of alienating Norman Tebbit. Sir Norman Fowler may not have been the "Downing Street candidate" for chairmanship of the backbench foreign affairs committee, but the man who will work closely alongside the prime minister at the next election would not have stood without a nod from that direction. And while Mr Tebbit may have signalled that he is not the force he

was by shirking a direct challenge, a wounded polecat can still prove a dangerous beast.

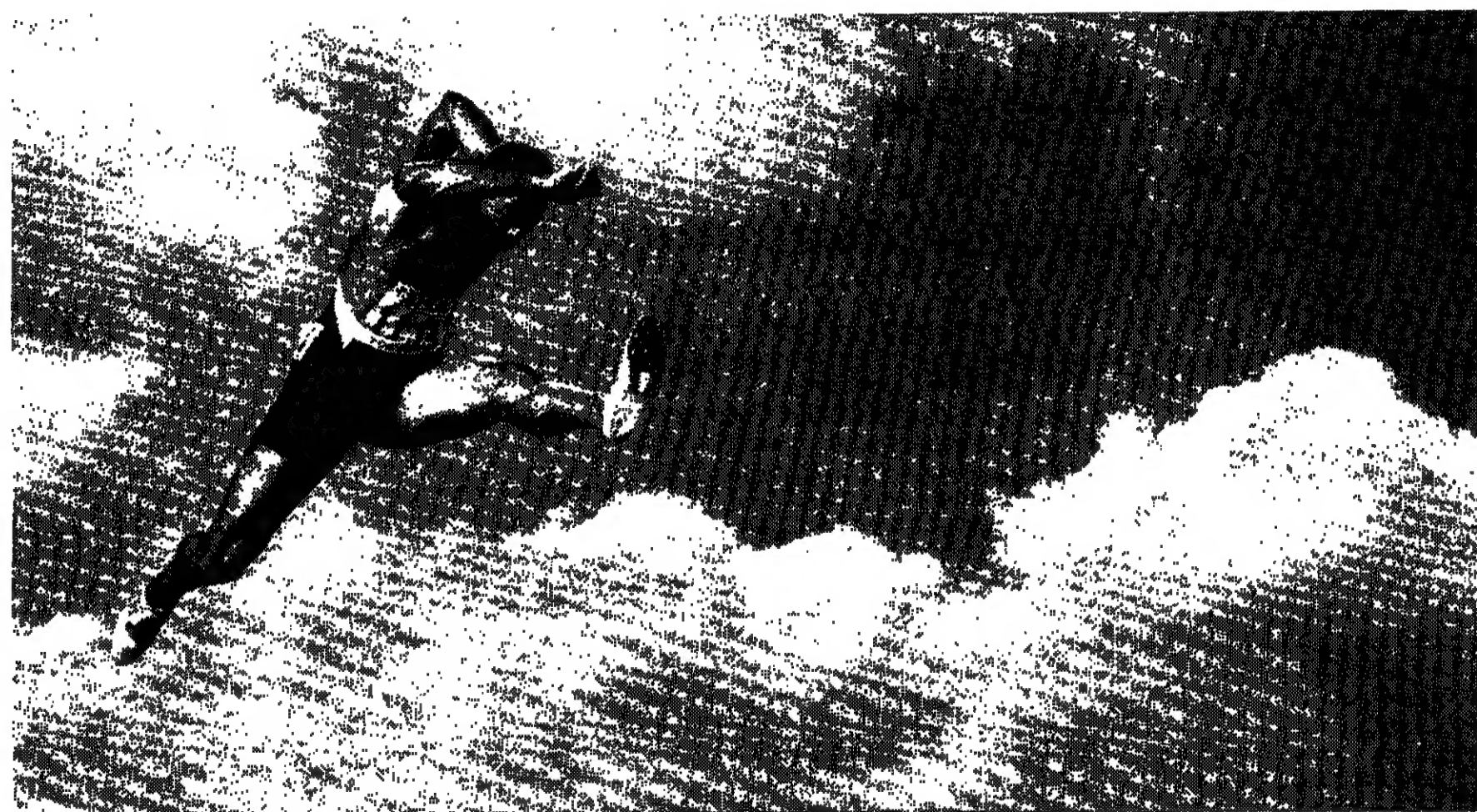
But the belief at the top is that the breach with Mr Tebbit had to come. The total rejection of a single currency was not an offer from Downing Street.

The other calculation in Downing Street is that coming home from Maastricht without a deal is going to be perceived as a failure. Not only is that a risk in itself for a government still two percentage points behind in the polls with six months to go, but it would also provide Labour with the opportunity to build on its image as a modern-looking pro-European party for the Nineties.

Mr Tebbit may reckon the Conservatives would gain from fighting an election aggressively as the party that has preserved British sovereignty against a Maastricht deal which a Euro-supplicant Labour party would accept. Mr Major, who came to the leadership saying that Britain's place was "at the heart of Europe", does not see that as a cap which fits. He would from then on be on the defensive.

The risk of seeming to have failed by coming back without a deal from Maastricht, senior advisers are telling the prime minister, outweighs the risk of upsetting his predecessor and inducing Mrs Thatcher to "go nuclear" by accepting one. Indeed, some of them are saying that there might even be an advantage for Mr Major in her doing so, provided that he then hits back with equal vigour.

The country, they are telling him, would warm to him and accuse her of the kind of sour grapes she used to suffer from Edward Heath. Certainly the whole thing is getting the Tories in a tizzy. But they should note the findings of the exit poll in Loughborough and calm down. Given a list of six subjects on which they would most like the government to change its policy, just 13 per cent chose Europe, less than half the number on any other subject.



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	dep. ret.	dep. ret.	dep. ret.	dep. ret.	dep. ret.	dep. ret.	dep. ret.
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Inspector for public services

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AGENCIES which have been created to carry out many government executive functions should be monitored by an inspector, a former cabinet secretary is to recommend within the next month.

With more than half the civil service destined to be employed in agencies by next April, Lord Hunt of Tanworth will call for the periodic review of the agencies, their performance and their relationship with Whitehall departments.

Lord Hunt, cabinet secretary for 1973-79, wants an inspector general to report to the prime minister on the working of each agency and, in particular, on the relationship between the devolved units and the central government departments. The inspector would also look at the efficiency of the agencies and their delivery of services to the public.

He will argue that scrutiny is needed because, unlike the private sector, many of the agencies are providing services in areas where there is no alternative for the public. In particular, the inspector would review the relationship between central departments and agencies to ensure that there was the minimum of second-guessing between them.

Some agency chief executives have complained of second-guessing by the Whitehall departments and of a reluctance by civil servants at the centre to allow agencies greater freedom. Lord Hunt will argue that the inspector may be needed for a few years to ensure that the relationship between Whitehall and the agencies does not turn into a form of neo-colonialism, with the centre trying to review decisions taken in the devolved unit.



Embassy staff criticised

British embassy staff in Warsaw were criticised for their treatment of Poles seeking visas. After queuing outside the embassy, applicants were "quizzed by badly impertinent British personnel who often care little about the circumstances of the Poles". Lady Ryder of Warsaw told the House of Lords.

Earl Ferrers, a home office minister, rejected calls for the visa requirement to be scrapped.

Clergy talks

The environment department is to have talks with the churches about the position of clergymen under the council tax, Robert Key, under secretary, said in a written reply.

Army delay

The two-year gap before Scottish regiments are merged will give time to reassess the plan if circumstances change, Allan Stewart, Scottish office minister, said at questions.

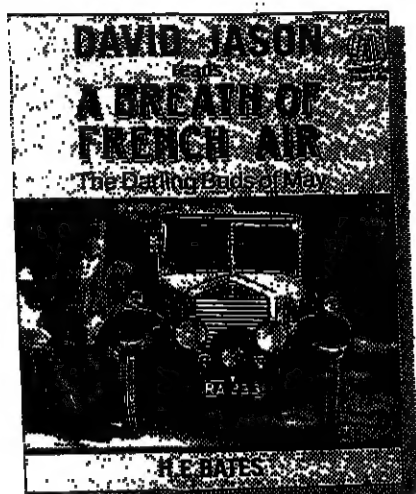
Lane offences

The Metropolitan Police issued 16,525 fixed penalties to motorists last year for contravening bus lane restrictions, John Patten, Home Office minister, said.

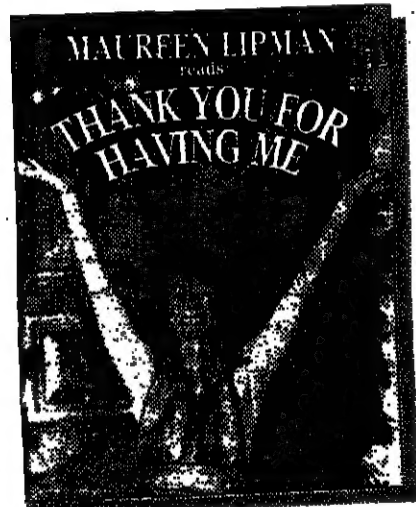
Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Northern Ireland; prime minister. Coal industry bill, second reading. Lords (3): Offshore safety bill, second reading. Short debate on reorganisation of Scottish regiments.

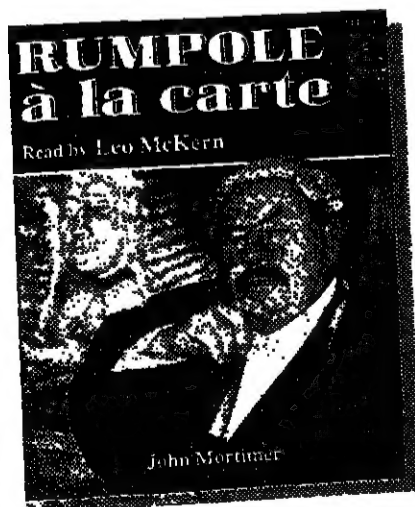
A talking tape from Smith's will go straight to their heads.



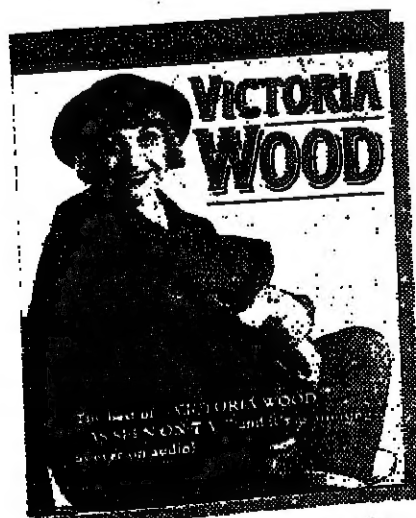
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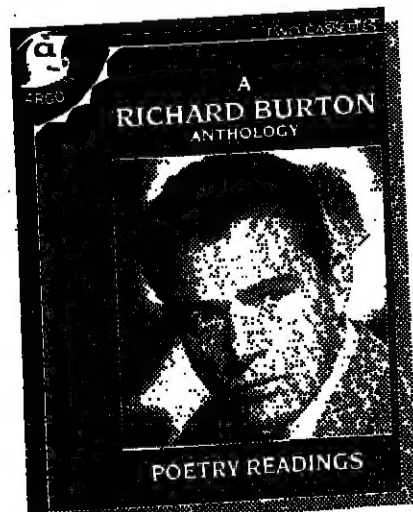
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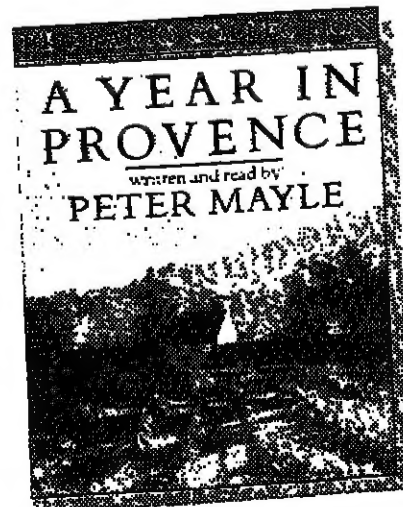
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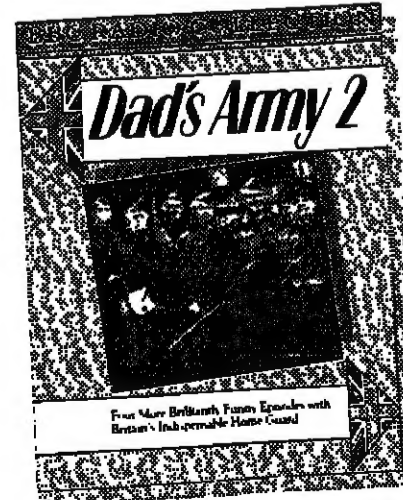
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Foreign ministers' meeting ends close to deadlock

From GEORGE BROCK IN NOORDWIJK

TALKS on EC political union were close to deadlock last night as a two-day debate on the Maastricht treaty here came to an end with hardly any of the disagreements resolved.

Few governments made any concessions over the latest version of the proposed treaty. Douglas Hurd said yesterday that some people in Europe were adjusting to the discovery that the Maastricht treaty would not be a great leap towards a united states of Europe.

"The sad people here," he told BBC radio, "are the people who hoped that out of this negotiation would come a great leap forward into integration. That is not going to happen. They are sad because they understand that."

Mr Hurd suggested that people in Britain would have been worried if the European parliament had emerged from the negotiations with a great deal of power to impose things on the British people. "That

is out, and the phrase 'co-decision' has been dropped."

He added: "What we are talking now about is something much narrower. It is not a question of whether they can impose, but the circumstances in which, in a narrow scope, the parliament can block and actually prevent things going through. We haven't conceded that because nothing is conceded until there is agreement on everything."

He also said that Britain had made an important proposal that the European Court should be able to fine member states who lagged behind in carrying out what they promised. That was a sore point in Britain, because Britain had a good record. Others had hesitated on this, but it was clear that the proposal was going to go through.

But Britain's isolated or minority positions on a num-



COUNTDOWN TO MAASTRICHT

ber of key disputes was bitterly criticised by other governments. One British official said that Germany was the government closest to believing that the treaty might be so reduced as to be not worth signing at all.

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, voiced his disappointment at the meagre results of the talks. "If I want a car," he was reported to have said, "I don't want a bicycle. What I am being offered here is a snail."

Herr Genscher told the meeting that his government wanted greater powers for the European parliament and closer integration of crime and immigration policies if it was to sign an agreement on monetary union. Britain, in an important shift of policy, conceded the principle of a veto for the European parliament but there is no consensus on the subjects to be covered

Yesterday Mr Hurd said that Britain would not accept several items on the long list of new EC policies that are proposed in the latest draft treaty.

His strongest objections were to clauses that suggested new EC powers over energy, industry and trans-European energy, road and rail and telecommunications networks. Such policies, he said, would be expensive and would distort the operation of the European single market.

Mr Hurd also asked his colleagues for a discussion of the "federal goal" which is written into the opening of the treaty. Officials suggested yesterday that the phrase would need to be replaced by a formula which would make it clear that federalism meant decentralisation.

There were strong indications last night that the foreign ministers would hold a second convocation a week before the Maastricht summit to try to clear the path to the summit on December 9 and 10, where the EC leaders hope to agree on a political and monetary union treaty.

In Bonn Carl Bildt, the Swedish prime minister, said that the EC must help stabilise Eastern Europe to prevent its problems spilling into the West.

Diary, page 18
Letters, page 19



Table talk: Douglas Hurd greets Hans-Dietrich Genscher of Germany when the EC foreign ministers resumed discussions at the Dutch town of Noordwijk yesterday

Labour claims the moral high ground

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

THE ambassadors of the European Community countries hosted a lunch in honour of Neil Kinnock in London yesterday, hours before the shadow cabinet adopted a position paper on political union to show Labour in a far more positive pre-Maastricht light than the government.

Two weeks ago, he persuaded Labour's national executive to adopt its most avowedly pro-European policy stance, supporting the principle of a single currency and promising to prevent Britain being relegated to a European second division.

The man who as a fledgling backbencher opposed Britain's entry to the EC and declared in the 1983 general election campaign that "we want out of the Common Market" has moved a long way. As Tory divisions resurface, Labour is claiming the moral high ground in the European argument.

Even as Labour was going down to its 1983 defeat, Mr Kinnock was reaching the conclusion that its policy of pulling out of the EC was no longer tenable. In his manifesto for the party leadership that July he effectively dropped the idea of withdrawal. "By 1988 Britain will have been in the Common Market for 15 years. After that length of time withdrawal should be regarded as a last

resort considered only if the best interests of the British people cannot be feasibly safeguarded by any other means."

Since then, Mr Kinnock's progress towards Euro-enthusiasm, and his remarkable achievement in taking his party with him, has been presented in terms of winning a better deal for Britain. That September, he told the Socialist group at the European parliament that "our future, like our past and our present, lies with Europe... but it will still only lie with the EEC if the Common Market can be a source of tangible value to the British people."

The conference that elected him as leader the next month reduced withdrawal to an "option". The next year as he prepared for the European elections he used an article in *New Socialist* to argue for a joint European recovery programme and in the June poll Labour virtually doubled its representation at the European parliament. In the 1987 general election manifesto, withdrawal was not an option, not even a last resort. The commitment had been dropped with scarcely a protest.

The Labour leader had by now turned the debate to economic and monetary union, which his party opposed.

As he embarked on the post-1987 election policy review, Mr Kinnock was ever more convinced that Britain must not be left in the European slow lane. Labour's Euro-enthusiasm appeared to win endorsement from the voters when it triumphed in the 1989 Euro elections. By returning 45 MEPs, it became the biggest grouping in the parliament.

Mr Kinnock's belief, as he has edged the party onwards towards approval of a single currency, is that he will always be able to present a more united front than the Tories.

As John Major was taking over as prime minister last November Labour was quietly adopting a policy committing it to the "process of economic and monetary integration" and stating that for Britain to allow itself to be excluded from a single currency would be against the national interest.

Labour has now hardened its stance to try to capitalise on the government's internal difficulties. Its latest *Labour in Europe* document says the framework of Britain's industrial development "can be created only within the context of the European Community". Labour's position now is to favour the principle of economic union provided the process is built on the policies a Labour government would promote for improving industrial performance and achieving convergence of the European economies.

Mr Kinnock's European about-turn is now ranged alongside others by the Conservatives to show he is a man without principle, driven only by political expediency. He would argue that he has adjusted to realities.

Crime creates a hint of harmony

From TOM WALKER
IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Community home office ministers yesterday met to consider controversial plans to harmonise punishments for fraud across the Community.

It was the first time that the ministers have debated a common-justice issue since 1984—an indication of how sensitive

member states are to any meddling by Brussels in their own penal codes. Harmonising the 12 different legal systems of the EC has never been considered as part of the union process coming to its head in Maastricht. "This is a very sensitive area, particularly for Britain," a Com-

mission spokesman said. "Nevertheless, fraud against the Community is growing, and sooner or later member states are going to have to at least consider altering their penal codes unless offences in one member state continue to go unpunished in another. The classic areas of siphoning money illegally from Community coffers are abuses of the

£26 billion-a-year Common Agricultural Policy, and customs fraud."

The Commission says that in 1990 it was told of 800 cases of agricultural fraud, amounting to a loss of nearly £100 million for the CAP. But before common rules can be agreed, the real extent of the crime cannot be estimated.

"We just don't know how many farmers there are out there who claim they've got 300 sheep when in fact they've got 100," the spokesman said. Furthermore, the biggest losses incurred by the CAP are not fraud cases involving single farmers but complicated illegal enterprises.

Peter Schmidhuber, the budget commissioner, has already pushed through rules requiring member states to notify the Commission of all fraud cases involving more than £7,000 of EC money. In addition, member states now swap information about fraud, and an information system called DAF (anti-fraud documentation) will start in 1993.

But getting member states to agree common punishments against those committing fraud is a more difficult task, and even allowing the Commission surveillance over cases in member states touches raw nerves. "Even a hint of something coming under some sort of Community watch is enough to deter Britain," the Commission spokesman said.

Anti-unionists to fight at election

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Anti-Federalist League will announce plans today to field candidates in the general election if John Major signs an EC treaty on monetary and political union next month.

The league, which will be launched by Alan Sked, a member of the advisory council of the Bruges group and a London School of Economics academic, and the barrister Leon Price, is setting up constituency organisations throughout the country.

Dr Sked said, however, that no decision will be taken on putting forward candidates in seats where the other main candidates favour closer European unity until after the EC summit at Maastricht. "We want to leave open the prospect that there will be no problem if Britain does not sign."

Meanwhile, the European Movement is collecting signatures to a statement, for publication a week before the EC summit, urging Mr Major to sign up for full EC political and monetary union.

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and the actor Sir Peter Ustinov will open the movement's new Westminster offices, described as Britain's first European centre, next Thursday.

Peter Luff, its director, disclosed yesterday that the movement had dropped the word "federal" in describing its goal because of different interpretations of the meaning. The movement's pre-Maastricht statement will instead call on the prime minister to agree to full economic and political union with a single currency and central bank, common foreign and security policies decided through the EC's institutions and co-decision powers for the European parliament.

"We have a very clear statement calling for monetary union and economic and political union as well," Mr Luff said. The Bruges group, with Margaret Thatcher as its president, is intensifying its anti-federal campaign in the next four weeks by publishing, next Wednesday, an "opinion" on the latest draft Dutch treaty as MPs begin their two-day Commons debate on Britain's role in Europe.

The group will also hold a seminar on November 26 when the most ardent Eurosceptics, including Nicholas Ridley and Peter Shore, plan to dissect the treaty line by line.

Labour has now hardened its stance to try to capitalise on the government's internal difficulties. Its latest *Labour in Europe* document says the framework of Britain's industrial development "can be created only within the context of the European Community". Labour's position now is to favour the principle of economic union provided the process is built on the policies a Labour government would promote for improving industrial performance and achieving convergence of the European economies.

Mr Kinnock's European about-turn is now ranged alongside others by the Conservatives to show he is a man without principle, driven only by political expediency. He would argue that he has adjusted to realities.

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Looking for clues in Euro-speak

FOR Michael Arthur, of the Foreign Office's EC department, last weekend was a lost weekend. He spent most of it marking Douglas Hurd's card for this week's "conclave" of foreign ministers discussing European political union (George Brock writes from Noordwijk).

Mr Arthur's unenviable job was to digest the latest draft of the political union treaty, written in French, which arrived in London on Saturday, and lay out British tactics. Serious horse trading has now started on the Maastricht treaty and the staid pace of the talks has quickened. Every minister needs a guide to remind him exactly what "negative assent procedure" is.

The 12 foreign ministers have been holed up for two days in a five-star tower block overlooking the North Sea. The gale-blown backdrop made the papal overtones of a "conclave" especially incongruous: it would be hard to imagine anywhere less like the Vatican. Any smoke coming out of the chimney of the Huis Der Tuin hotel would have vanished instantly in the wind and rain.

The fruits of Mr Arthur's labour are a one-inch stack of photocopied pages of the latest draft, bound with purple string, and Mr Arthur's clause-by-clause commentary. One official's copy highlighted just two phrases

THE BACKDROP

in the opening section of the treaty: "single currency" and "federal goal". The "F-word" is still there.

After ten months of negotiation, the treaty text is 135 pages and the experts have begun to talk in a strange language of their own. Carried on the wind come the sounds of people asking whether "NAP will apply to all QMV", or mysterious incantations such as "the Luxembourg language is a placeholder for the WEU text on organic links". Only a few dozen scholars among the EC's 320 million people can speak this odd tongue.

British officials boast that their omnibus briefing document is the best thesaurus available and hint in a lofty fashion that perhaps not all other ministers are fluent in the finer points of treaty-speak.

As news of British flexibility on the powers of the European parliament seeped out on Tuesday afternoon, Foreign Office men telephoned Downing Street, reassuring the prime minister's nervous staff that Mr Hurd and Tristan Garel-Jones, his junior minister, were not surrendering to the federalists. But you have to admire Mr Hurd's footwork: he managed to be busy elsewhere when the parliament's

powers were discussed and it was left to Mr Garel-Jones to make the concession. "We keep the foreign secretary in reserve for the really important bits: saying no," one official murmured.

Jacques Delors, of the EC Commission, is trying desperately to remind governments of their once-high hopes that this treaty would lay the foundations for a united states of Europe. Mr Delors is notoriously moody and easily persuaded that governments are betraying the federal dream. In a long outburst at dinner on Tuesday night, he accused the ministers of "filleting" the worthwhile parts out of the treaty text.



Not quite the Vatican: the wet and windy "conclave" town of Noordwijk

EC truce brings brief respite to citizens braced for last-ditch battle in streets of Dubrovnik

Croats give up strategic hilltop fort

From TIM JUDAH in DUBROVNIK

THE bombardment of Dubrovnik subsided yesterday as Croatian soldiers said that the last strategic hilltop defending the city had been abandoned.

The citizens of the besieged Adriatic port emerged from their shelters after more than four days of some of the most intense shelling in the city's history. They were taking advantage of a truce arranged so that European Community ceasefire monitors and about 1,200 women, children, elderly and wounded could be evacuated on a ferry which is expected to leave this morning.

The soldiers were said to have left Srđ hill after dark on Tuesday, but they were also reports that a group of die-hards remained. "They've all gone," said Pipe, aged 23. "It's not the end, but it's close," said another soldier, Toni, aged 21.

City officials refused to confirm that the 90 soldiers who had been holding the fort on Srđ hill had retreated. Pero Poljanec, the mayor, would only say: "This is not a proper question." Zeljko Sikic, the chief of local government, said: "Srđ is not important in itself. What is important is to get the occupying army to

withdraw from occupied areas of Croatia." Peace talks between the Dubrovnik authorities and the Yugoslav military are due to take place today.

Dubrovnik had been encircled by the Yugoslav army and navy for six weeks and has been without electricity, running water or fresh food. The bombardment of the past few days has damaged several buildings in the historic old city and has devastated other residential districts, hotels and Dubrovnik's commercial port area. Yesterday people scurried to collect sea water and queued for the first bread to be sold since the barrage began.

Dubrovnik radio reported yesterday that since the intense shelling began 38 people, including eight soldiers, had been killed — a surprisingly low figure. Croatian soldiers said that seven of their men had died in Bosanka, a hilltop position from which they retreated on Monday.

Early yesterday several shells were fired at Srđ by the Yugoslav army but as the ceasefire came into effect the guns fell silent. Gazing up at the hills from Dubrovnik's old harbour Antun, aged 22, who had come down from Srđ three days ago, said: "The army may not even know



Blazing wreck: smoke and flames envelop Dubrovnik's harbour and walls as Croat residents and refugees prayed for the Serb-led bombardment to end

we've left, but soon they'll move their big guns in and then the shooting will begin again. If it were up to me I'd surrender now."

Antun said that four days ago two Yugoslav soldiers had come within 30 yards of the fort before being gunned down at a large crucifix which is clearly visible from the city. "The fear up there is ungodly," said another soldier. With Dubrovnik already

completely vulnerable to Yugoslav gunboats, artillery and mortars from three sides, the final loss of Srđ has a more symbolic than strategic importance. Yesterday, as people emerged from their cellars and shelters and the loss of Srđ became known, the little relief that people felt was soon filled with gloom and foreboding.

Inspecting an unexploded rocket protruding from a

building on the Stradun, the main street of the old city, Niksa, aged 33, said: "Probably it is the end for us. We expect the Yugoslav army to enter the city in a couple of days, but we don't blame our soldiers: it is Europe that deserted us."

Like many other people, Niksa said that he expected street fights if and when Yugoslav troops attempted to enter Dubrovnik, and gloomy

Croatian fighters said they expected to put up a last-ditch suicidal resistance. "What else can we do," said one. "They will kill us anyway."

Outside the Revelin tower, a massive 17th century fortification that has been home to hundreds of refugees and those seeking shelter from army bombardments small groups of people stood around the doorway enjoying their first sun in four days. "I expect

we'll be here for another month, I even expect them to destroy us completely," said Mirjana, aged 47. Returning to the shelter after a visit to his house Luka, aged 27, carried a large canister of water collected from a rain bucket. "There's been so much talking," he said. "The only thing that can save us now is the US Sixth Fleet."

Guns fall silent, page 1

Rebels unite against Russia

From ROBERT SEELY in GROZNY

A REPRESENTATIVE of six Caucasian regions arrived in the rebel republic of Chechno-Ingushetia yesterday to prepare a military strategy to fight for full independence from the Soviet and Russian governments.

General Djokhar Dudayev, the Chechno-Ingushetia leader, who has positioned himself as the figurehead of north Caucasian opposition to Moscow rule, called on the myriad ethnic groups in the area to unite, and accused President Yeltsin of being a "KGB spy" as the war of words between Grozny and Moscow continued. "Officials of other republics and regions are here to propose strong military structures and to create a mechanism under one system," General Dudayev said. Among the representatives were officials from Georgia and Azerbaijan, as well as autonomous regions within the Russian Federation, such as Dagestan and Northern Ossetia.

Despite yesterday's preparations for military action, a veneer of calm has returned to Grozny. Buses and lorries blockading the main streets have been removed and the cabinet met yesterday although dozens of excited and armed Chechens and Ingush still roamed the streets or gathered for open-air prayers in front of the supreme soviet of the former autonomous republic.

General Dudayev again threatened bloodshed if Russia tries to impose a military solution here, although the situation throughout the Caucasus is so tense that any Soviet or Russian action in one area could trigger a backlash throughout the region. "We want to solve problems without Russia. If they interfere, we will unite with other Caucasian republics which are ready to support us," he said.

Officially, 28,000 people, of whom 7,500 have declared themselves to be armed, have volunteered for the national guard in Chechno-Ingushetia. Soviet forces in the region have been confined to barracks.

In Shali, a town 40 minutes' drive from Grozny, through scrubby, flat countryside, a Soviet tank school's training fields are deserted. The heads of Soviet guardsmen appear out of their dilapidated sentry boxes surrounded by barbed wire. Behind them is a high white wall, ringed with electric fencing, stark off the township of concrete barracks.

The officer on duty at the guardhouse, Said Oyubayev, aged 25, is a Chechen, though he still takes orders from his Soviet superiors. If told to fight against his people, he said that he would refuse and join the Chechens' national guard.



Dudayev: accused Yeltsin of being a KGB spy

Shortages hit Moscow power grid

From BRUCE CLARK in MOSCOW

MOSCOW'S municipal authorities face a desperate struggle to maintain supplies of food, heating and power to the Soviet capital's ten million inhabitants through the winter, city officials said yesterday.

One senior official, Boris Nekolsky, acknowledged that the oil and coal necessary to maintain the city's ramshackle electricity grid and heating network during the first quarter of next year had not yet been procured. It was hoped that a contract would be signed in the next few days.

Even if that problem is solved, the city's centralised hot water supply, which is also the main means of heating most flats, could not be guaranteed, particularly in northern Moscow where important repairs are not due to be completed until February. "If necessary, we shall have to cut off hot water," said Mr Nekolsky. Another city official said northern districts could face serious problems if there was a cold snap — involving temperatures below -10C — of more than a week.

The officials — aides to Gavril Popov, the reformist mayor of Moscow — defended yesterday's rise of six to nine times in the price of some types of bread, saying it was a necessary move to fend off a surge of hoarding. Moscow's consumption of bread, which has always been massively subsidised under the Soviet system, had risen recently to 2,500 tonnes a day from the normal level of 1,800 tonnes, straining state bakeries to the limits of their capacity and draining reserves of flour to a critical point. Pensioners are buying up bread and making toast, which lasts longer.

Plans to use Pentagon funds for Soviet aid fail

From MARTIN FLETCHER in WASHINGTON

IRATE American congressmen have forced two of their most powerful colleagues to abandon a bold plan to spend up to \$1 billion (£560 million) of the Pentagon's 1992 budget on stabilising and demilitarising the Soviet Union.

Democrats and Republicans, in a striking manifestation of the political mood in Washington, strongly objected to the idea of giving money to former communist foes at a time when so many Americans were homeless or unemployed. The idea was "a golden parachute for communist armers", Robert Dole, the Senate's Republican minority leader, said.

The plan unveiled two weeks ago by Les Aspin and Sam Nunn, Democratic chairmen of the House of Representatives and Senate armed services committees, would have allowed Pentagon funds to be spent for the first time on promoting stability in the Soviet Union as a way of enhancing America's security. Acknowledging defeat, Mr

Nunn said it was "too bad we can't get out in front of things for a change", adding that Soviet nuclear and other technology could be dispersed around the world. "We're facing the breakdown of the largest arsenal in the world and people in economic distress will be selling things."

The plan fell victim to the Democrats' success in depicting President Bush as wanting to solve the troubles of any country but his own, which is one of the problems hampering the White House in drafting its own plan to help the Soviet people through the winter.

The long-awaited package is expected to include about \$1 billion in additional loan guarantees to enable the Soviet Union to buy American grain, plus a substantial sum in direct humanitarian assistance. However, with Soviet creditworthiness in doubt, the administration is still waiting for the republics and Moscow to agree a mechanism for repaying those loans.



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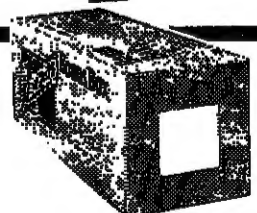


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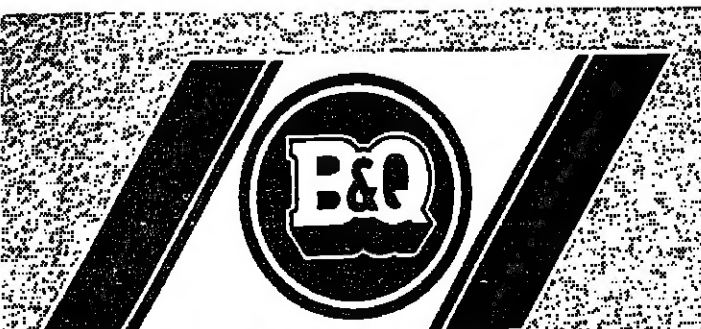
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Blood-stained chapel marks Timor killing

By MOSES MANOHARAN OF REUTERS IN DILI, EAST TIMOR AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AS THE gruesome details emerged of the killing of up to 115 unarmed people in East Timor, Indonesia announced yesterday that it would hold an enquiry into the army's firing on marchers in Dili, the capital, on Tuesday.

Amid world condemnation, Jakarta also expressed regret for the action. Portugal, the former colonial ruler of the territory annexed by Indonesia in 1976, condemned the "extreme brutality" of the Indonesian armed forces.

Lisbon called on all countries to put pressure on Jakarta



General Sutrisno talking in Jakarta yesterday

to end its "illegal occupation" of the territory. President Soesna said he had written to the United Nations secretary-general last week to draw attention to the intolerable disrespect for human rights. Bob Hawke, the Australian prime minister, deplored the "appalling tragedy" and called for a full account.

Discarded schoolbooks, a baby's bottle and a blood-spattered chapel mark the site where the Indonesian troops opened fire on mourners, who had gone to a cemetery for a memorial service to mark the death two weeks ago of a separatist sympathiser.

The military, whose commander is General Try Sutrisno, say it was the stabbing of a major - who survived the attack - at the ceremony that triggered the shootings. The army had been trying to

disperse a crowd of at least 1,000 East Timorese marching in procession through Dili to meet another 500 at the cemetery for the memorial service for Sebastiao Gomes, killed when troops broke up riots in front of a Catholic church on October 28.

The riots came just after Portugal suspended a parliamentary mission to East Timor because Indonesia objected to the inclusion of a Lisbon-based Australian journalist. Anti-Indonesian sentiment runs deep among youth in East Timor, where Jakarta's rule is not internationally recognised. An estimated 200,000 people have died since the Indonesian takeover.

The whitewashed walls and floor of the chapel where the shooting began were blood-stained. "I am still searching for my family," one young girl told foreign reporters. A man said that the firing erupted when the procession reached the chapel. "There were screams and everyone started to run when we heard the firing. Some of us saw soldiers taking away the bodies after stripping them of their clothes," he said. Plainclothes security men watched the cemetery and one took photographs of journalists and anyone who talked to them.

Yesterday many shops were shuttered in Dili and there were few soldiers on the streets. Some in battle fatigues sat in parked trucks watching passers-by in the heart of the city and at the airport. Witnesses said about 25 young East Timorese were hiding in the Red Cross office in Dili where they had run for shelter after the shooting.

An American journalist for *New Yorker* magazine who was badly beaten by the troops on Tuesday said he saw soldiers killing many civilians as they fled. Alan Nairn said the street was full of bodies. "Looking down the road, I saw body after body, and the soldiers kept firing at those still standing," he said.



Wounds of resistance: New York journalists Amy Goodman and Alan Nairn hear blood-stained testimony in Dili after being beaten by troops. The reporters had tried to prevent soldiers from opening fire on East Timorese marchers

South Africans to begin formal talks this month

From GAVIN BELL, IN JOHANNESBURG

THE first round of formal negotiations on a new constitution for South Africa will begin on November 29, it was announced yesterday.

South Africa's black majority will also be given the right to vote alongside the white majority in a referendum for the first time if an agreement is reached on the constitution under a proposed amendment to one of the last pieces of apartheid legislation. Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress,

told reporters that preparations were well advanced for a two-day conference of all the main parties, including the government and the ANC. He did not specify a venue, but said that a steering committee would meet in Johannesburg tomorrow to finalise the details.

"We are prepared to sit around the table with everybody who is prepared to make a positive contribution towards the success of the conference," Mr Mandela

said. "Whatever attitude (President) de Klerk takes, we are determined that it should succeed." There was no immediate statement from the government. Mr de Klerk is presently overseas on visits to Israel and Taiwan.

The ANC leader disclosed no details of the agenda, but political sources expect the conference to be a formality in which the parties will reaffirm their standing policies and reconvene after Christmas. Demands by the ANC and

other anti-apartheid organisations for an interim, multi-racial government, and an elected constituent assembly are expected to be given priority when the talks begin in earnest next year. President de Klerk has said he is prepared to invite representatives of other parties to join his government during the transition process.

Mr Mandela's announcement coincided with news that Pretoria intends to accord the black majority a form of

voting rights for the first time by amending one of the last main articles of apartheid legislation.

A referendum amendment bill introduced this week by Gene Louw, the minister of home affairs, would allow all adult citizens to vote by referendum on agreements reached during negotiations on a new constitution next year. It will be the first time that the principle of universal franchise has been formally recognised in law here.

Japanese tire of ant lifestyle

By REUTERS IN TOKYO AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

JAPANESE people want to work less and would rather go home than work overtime, a spokesman for the prime minister's office said yesterday.

Although Europeans commonly believe that the Japanese like nothing more than working like ants, a survey conducted by Kiichi Miyazawa's office shows that 41.3 per cent of Japanese, compared with 27.5 per cent in 1986, want a cut in working hours even if it means a drop in income. "The survey clearly shows that people want more leisure time, mainly the young," a labour ministry official said. "Such a trend is good as the government encourages people to work less."

The survey showed that 61.7 per cent wanted to work less than the current annual average of 2,044 hours, up from 48.8 per cent in 1986, and 48.1 per cent wanted working hours to fall to the government's target of about 1,800 a year; 13.8 per cent wanted them reduced to about 1,600 hours per year, the level in France and Germany. But 26.3 per cent said they would prefer to work overtime and earn more rather than cut their working hours; this compares with 34 per cent in 1986.

The survey does not reveal the attitude of Japanese employers. Since many employees fall to take their full holiday quota, would they take the extra hours they cover?

Thai junta tightens control

Bangkok - The Thai military, which seized power in a bloodless coup in February, looks set to rule the country for at least another four years. The nation's new constitution, released yesterday and expected to be approved next month, paves the way for General Suchinda Kraprayoon, the supreme commander, to become prime minister.

One foreign diplomat said: "The military seems to have everything sewn up. The new constitution is a charter for the junta to keep control after next year's elections."

Among the key provisions in the constitution are the sweeping powers given to the non-elected senate, a 270-member body appointed by the head of the junta. Under the constitution, the senate will be allowed to take part in crucial parliamentary debates and the selection of the prime minister. Serving military officers will be allowed to become cabinet members. (AFP)

Forced abortions

Hong Kong - Security officers in the Chinese province of Hunan ordered doctors to perform abortions on at least 21 women last month to meet family planning quotas, the independent *Ming Pao* reported here. Despite opposition, the officers "used hard and soft tactics" to force the women to go to hospital. (AFP)

Whales killed

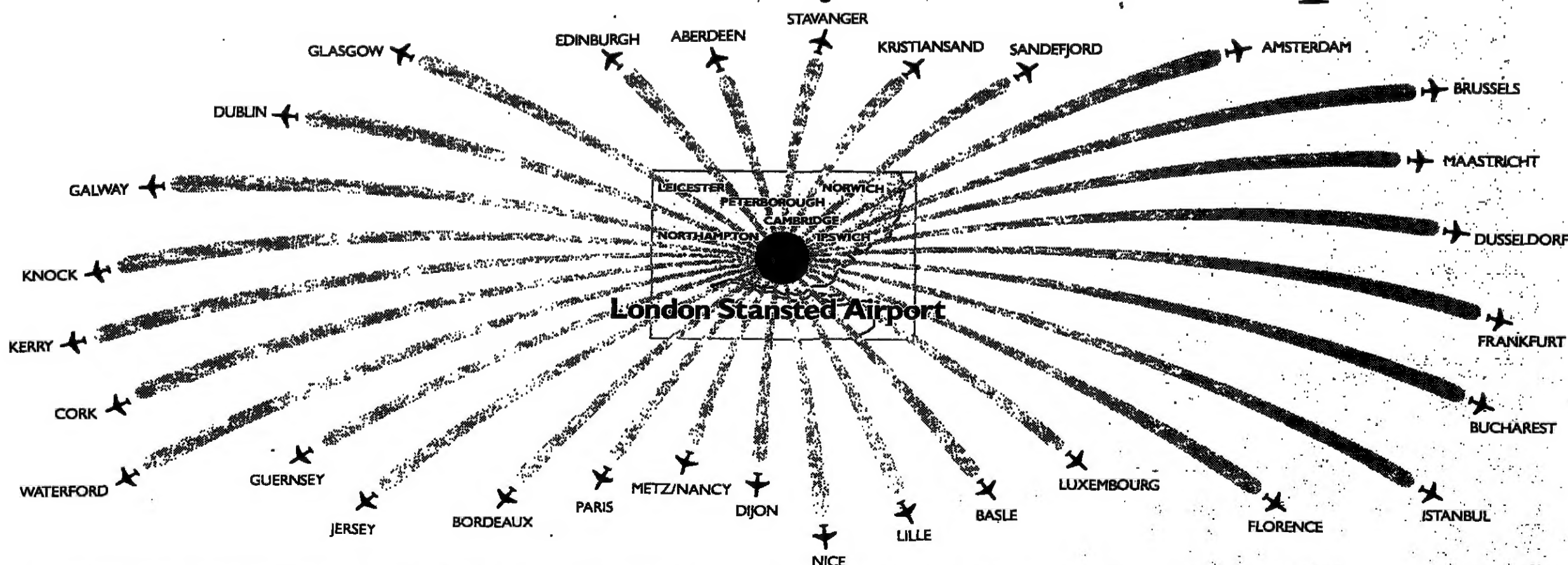
Sydney - Wildlife officers shot more than 50 whales stranded on a remote western Tasmanian beach. About 200 came ashore, but most died by the time wildlife officials and a veterinary surgeon arrived by helicopter. "There really was no choice but to put the remainder down," an official said. (Reuters)

Rally broken up

Kabul - About 300 supporters of the regime of President Najibullah of Afghanistan broke up an anti-government rally, forcing organisers to abandon plans to march near his palace. Many in the rally were supporters of the former Afghan monarch, King Zahir Shah. It was the first such rally since 1986. (AFP)

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THE TIMES THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14 1991

Violence in Kashmir

Indian army raids scar Himalayan hamlet

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN GANTUMULLA PAYEEN, KASHMIR

IN THE shadow of the Himalayan foothills, the village of Gantumulla Payeen is slowly recovering from a two-day visit by an estimated 500 troops last weekend.

The evidence of what went on is clear enough: broken windows, kicked-in doors, a man with a broken nose, another with a bloody bandage over a head wound. Villagers say dozens of other men are in hospital.

Gantumulla Payeen is in the district of Baramulla. Since the army's onslaught, shops throughout the region have remained closed in protest.

In practically every meagre hut of the village, with a population of 1,200, there are signs of looting. The locks of tin cases traditionally used to store valuables have been smashed. Piles of clothes are still strewn where the army left them. Abdul Rahim, a labourer, said 3,500 rupees he had saved for his daughter's wedding had been stolen.

Ghulam Rabani, aged 23, said he was hit on the head with a rifle butt, which left a large gash. He took off his shirt and revealed vivid bruises inflicted, he claimed, by lathi. His left hand, apparently broken, was bandaged.

Muhammad Asa Dullah Wani had his nose broken. People point out where six men, not from the village, were shot dead beside the Jhelum river. Soldiers gunned them down apparently believing they were militants. Villagers said they were labourers returning home.

Muhammad Mumwar Pandit, a farmer, said 5,000 rupees he had recently borrowed from the bank had been taken by soldiers. Manzoor Ahmad stepped forward to show severe bruising on his back. Abdul Razak, an elderly ex-serviceman who fought in the 1971 war in what is now Bangladesh, showed a head wound. The entire village seemed to be in shock and desperate to talk about its experience.

According to the villagers, the army conducted its search of the village on Saturday and went away. But they returned at about 7 am on Sunday when everybody was ordered to assemble in one place. That the villagers said, was when the houses were looted. There were no rapes although a woman called Hafiza, aged 30, said she thought she was going to be raped when she was told to go indoors. "I fainted and they went away," she said.

India is acutely sensitive to criticism of the tactics of its security forces in Kashmir. Eyewitnesses, a video news magazine produced in Delhi, has been told by the director-general of military intelligence that its film about Muzaffar Mirza, a torture victim, cannot be shown for "military security reasons".

The 16-minute programme was submitted to the army after the revising committee of the censor board refused to pass it. The external affairs ministry has also indicated that it opposes release of the film in its present form.

In the video Mr Mirza, who at the time of the interview was still able to speak, describes what happened to him. He is in the Medical College hospital in Srinagar, where doctors say he is dying.

Visions of apocalypse, page 1
Leading article, page 19

Saddam shuffles family cabinet

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq yesterday appointed one of his half-brothers as interior minister, making the composition of the government look increasingly like a family affair.

Watban Ibrahim al-Hassan will fill the vacancy left by Saddam's cousin, Ali Hassan al-Majid, who was appointed defence minister last week. Mr al-Majid, nicknamed "Ali Chemical" by the Kurds who hold him responsible for the gassing of 5,000 of their people in Halabja in 1988, had in turn replaced yet another of Saddam's relatives. Hussein Kamel Hassan, Saddam's son-in-law, was dismissed as defence minister last Wednesday. No reason was given for his removal.

Mr al-Hassan's collusion with Saddam goes back more than two decades. He was a former governor of a Kurdish province and intelligence chief, and was also a member of Saddam's *Jihaz Hananeh* (Instrument of Yearning), the underground group, which played a central role in the July 17, 1968, coup that

brought the Baath party to power in Iraq.

The Iraqi leader, who faced an unprecedented uprising from his Shia Muslim and Kurdish subjects after the Gulf war, had promised more democracy but has instead appointed close relatives to key posts. Iraqi opposition sources say it is a sign of his growing paranoia that he is now shuffling or sacking family members, who are the only people close enough to attempt to assassinate him.

Kurdish and Shia Muslim leaders say that without outside help they cannot pose a threat to Saddam's rule. Yesterday the Iraqi Kurdish peshmarga guerrillas who began a reluctant withdrawal from a string of cities under their control in northern Iraq. It was a price Kurdish leaders had to pay for the lifting of a three-week Iraqi blockade on Kurdish homelands, which had cut off food and fuel just as winter is setting in.



Unlikely lad: an artist applying the finishing touches to a giant and youthful portrait of Prince Sihanouk — real age, 69 — in Phnom Penh yesterday

Mobs 'seeking Khmer revenge'

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

THE possibility of mob attacks on Khmer Rouge leaders who return to Phnom Penh as part of the Cambodian peace settlement overshadowed preparations for the return today of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the exiled Cambodian leader.

Major-General Sin Sen, the deputy interior minister, raised the issue of the difficulty of protecting Khmer Rouge leaders such as Khieu Samphan, due here within the next few days, from the wrath of the people who were once their victims. "Our duty is to ensure their safety," General Sin Sen told a press conference here. "But it is extremely difficult to guarantee the safety of the Khmer Rouge. Many people suffered greatly under that regime, and it is difficult to control them."

What the general did not say, however, was that he had himself been a Khmer Rouge during Pol Pot's rule. The Khmer Rouge leaders, like the heads of the other factions, will each have ten personal bodyguards but there are doubts about this being enough. A Soviet diplomat said that senior officials of the Phnom Penh government had asked him: "Are we to shoot down our own people to protect a gang of bandits?"

The envoy said: "It's possible to control a crowd of 20 protesting against the Khmer Rouge, even if they are armed. But what if 5,000 people show up, or even 50,000? How do you control numbers of people like that who have suffered so much?" The first Khmer Rouge leader, Son Sen, the defence minister, is due here on Sunday.

Large portraits of a youthful Prince Sihanouk have been put up at a few key road junctions on the route to the palace.

William Shawcross, page 18

Africa to provide UN head

New York — The contest to become the next United Nations secretary-general has narrowed to a two-horse race between Egypt's deputy prime minister and Zimbabwe's finance minister, ensuring that Africa will provide its first UN chief (James Bone writes).

Western diplomats said yesterday that an unofficial poll taken by the security council on Tuesday night showed that none of the council's five permanent members is ready to exercise its veto power to block the frontrunners. All are agreed that the successor to Javier Perez de Cuellar at the end of the year will be either Boutros Boutros Ghali of Egypt or Bernard Chidzero of Zimbabwe.

The security council is expected to make a final choice before the end of this month, possibly early next week. African diplomats hailed the latest poll as a great victory in their long campaign to have an African elected to the UN leadership.

Moi clampdown

Kisumu — President Moi of Kenya ordered total secrecy for investigations into allegations of government corruption. A British detective said at an enquiry into the murder of Robert Ouko, the foreign minister, 20 months ago. The allegations were made by the Swiss-based BAK agricultural and industrial group. (Reuters)

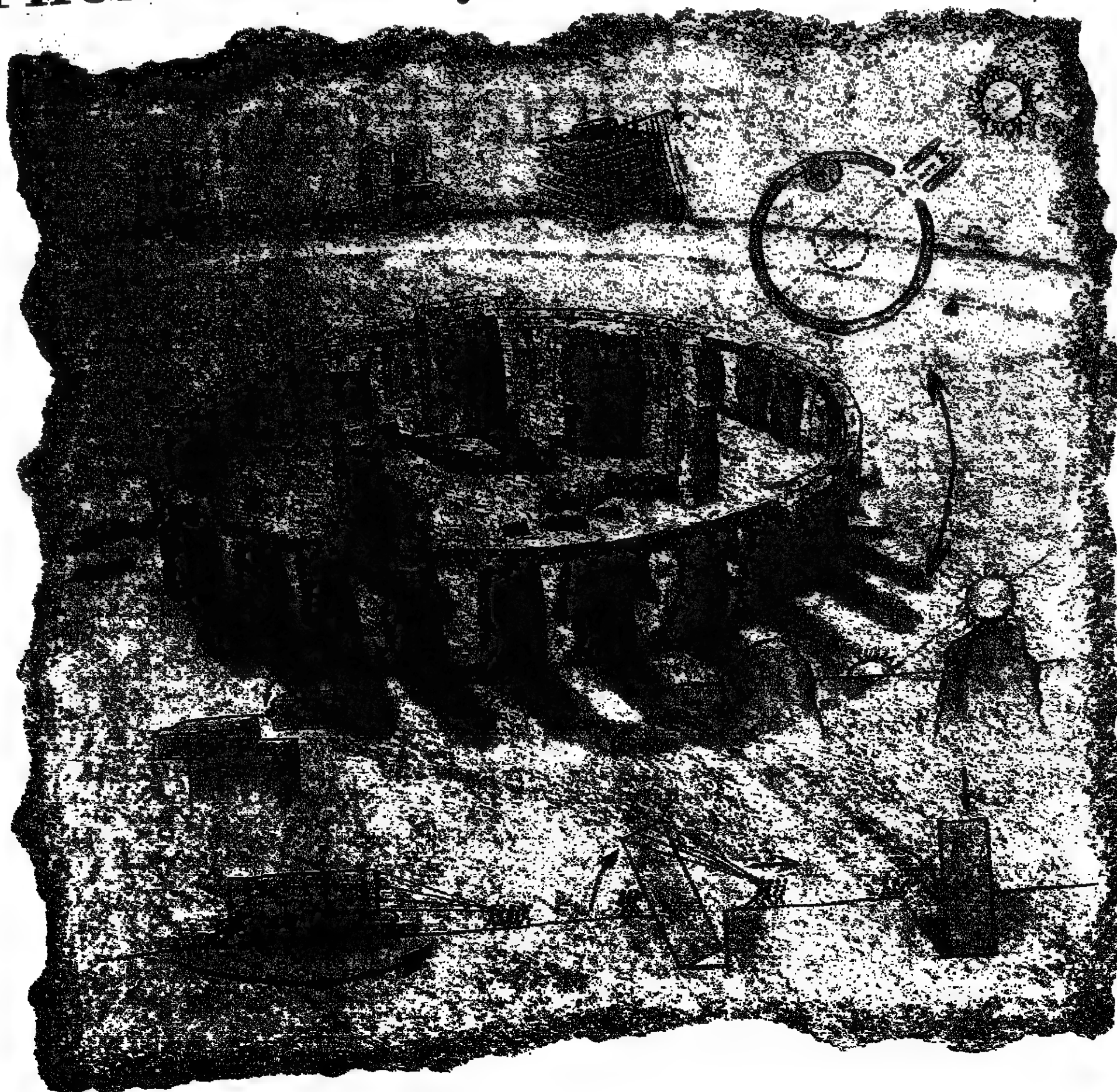
Angolan deaths

Luanda — Six people were killed and 18 wounded in clashes between rebels of the secessionist Cabinda Enclave Liberation Front and government forces in the oil-rich Angolan Cabinda enclave at the weekend. The *Jornal de Angola* said. The authorities had ordered a curfew. (AFP)

Plimsoll line

Seattle — An American oceanographer, Curtis Ebbsmeyer, is plotting the drift of 80,000 sneakers that were lost in the Pacific by a freighter en route to Seattle from South Korea 18 months ago. He contends the sports shoes will help him to know more about ocean currents. (Reuters)

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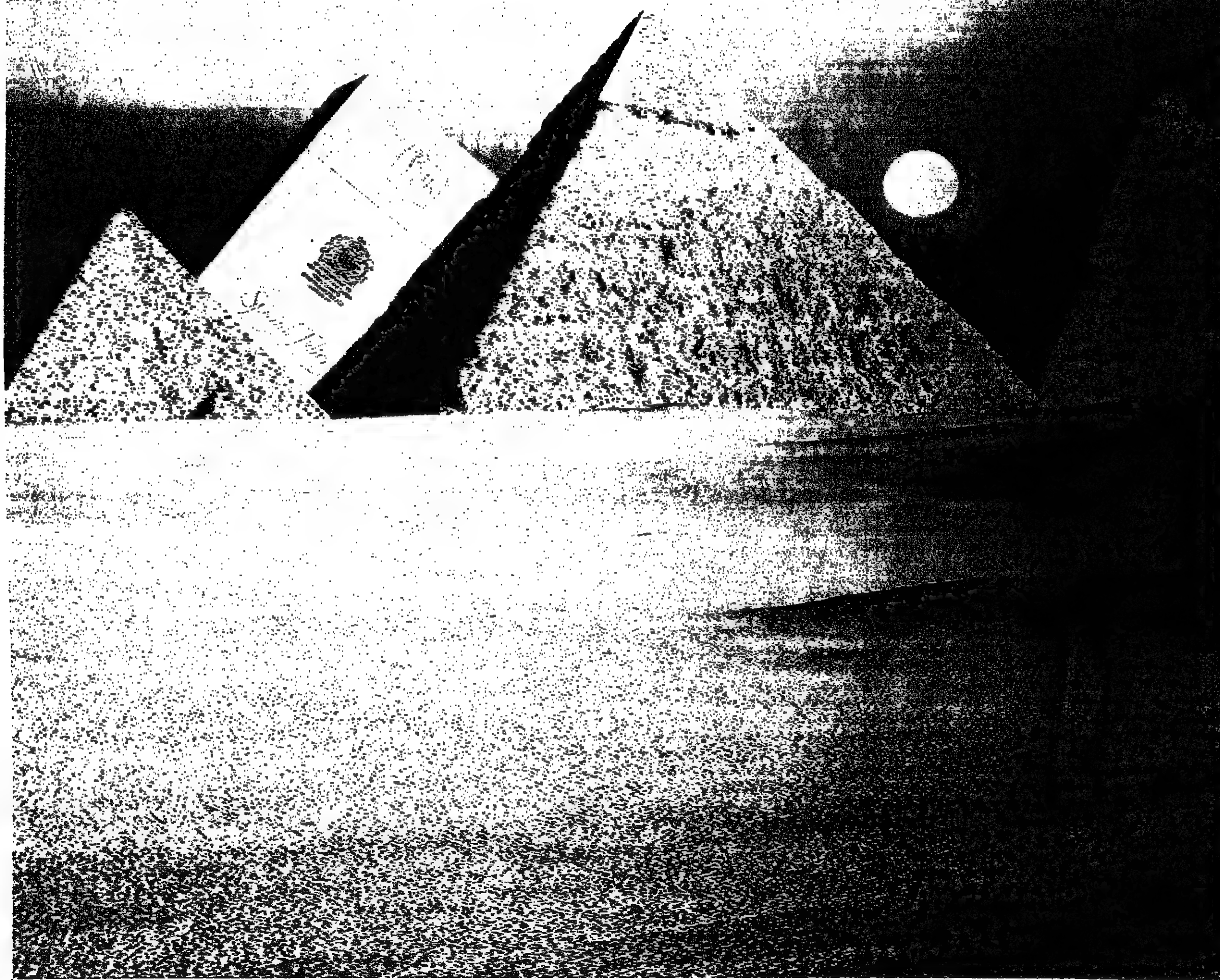
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Volcano blast may cool the world

The recent eruption in the Philippines could bring colder weather, reports Nigel Hawkes

The Mount Pinatubo eruption in June seems likely to give scientists an opportunity for the most revealing climatic studies of the century. While attention was on Kuwait's oil fires, now considered insignificant in global terms, the Philippine volcano was proving that anything man can do nature can do better.

In eruptions that killed more than 300, Pinatubo spewed out between three and five cubic kilometres of rock and 9 million tons of sulphur dioxide. Scientists see a close parallel with the smaller El Chichon eruption in Mexico in 1982, which is believed to have lowered global temperatures significantly for several years.

They believe Pinatubo will lower temperatures by half a degree Celsius, temporarily cancelling at least a century of man-made global warming. Pinatubo may also seriously affect the ozone layer, catalysing the destruction of ozone in the northern hemisphere's middle latitudes.

The key to the effect of El Chichon and Pinatubo is not the ash and rock thrown out, but the sulphur dioxide. Studies by Dr Alain Bernard and colleagues at the Free University of Brussels, reported in this week's *Nature*, show that the Pinatubo plume was rich in calcium sulphate, just as the El Chichon plume was.

The way in which a volcano



The plume of discovery: Mount Pinatubo's eruption may provide climatologists with clues about global warming and ozone erosion

formed decides whether an eruption contains sulphur chemicals. Volcanoes such as El Chichon and Pinatubo form where the Earth's plates fold downwards, one moving beneath the other. They carry sea water down with them, until it is driven off by the rising temperatures. Rising again, the water mixes with the molten rock to create the explosive forces that drive the volcanoes. The

water also creates the conditions in which large amounts of sulphur can be dissolved in the melt. The result is powerful volcanoes that can throw sulphur dioxide and hydrogen sulphide into the atmosphere, where they turn into sulphuric acid. The acid droplets, so small that they stay in the atmosphere for several years, make an efficient sun screen.

Pinatubo's impact is now being

investigated by climatologists. Dr James Luhr, of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, also writing in this week's *Nature*, points out that Pinatubo ejected about two and a half times more sulphur gases into the atmosphere than El Chichon.

The temperatures of 1982 and 1983 were believed to be about 0.3 Celsius lower as a result of the Mexican volcano, so an estimated

fall of 0.5 Celsius this time seems modest. Half a degree may not seem much but it will have noticeable effects. One of its most frustrating results for scientists is that it will hinder efforts to measure the effects of man-made global warming, thought to be only half a degree Celsius during the past century.

Although most climatologists believe warming is taking place,

proving it is difficult. The natural variation from year to year is much greater than the estimated warming, making it tricky to separate man-made factors from natural phenomena.

A more sinister possibility is that the sulphur gases will catalyse the ozone erosion. Dr David Hoffmann and Dr Susan Solomon, of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Boulder, Colorado, believe the acid droplets provide a surface on which the man-made chlorine compounds react with the ozone and hasten its destruction. They estimate El Chichon could have catalysed the destruction of 15 per cent of the ozone in the northern hemisphere's middle latitudes.

The ozone is certainly disappearing in that region, for reasons that are not well understood. Research programmes have been started in Europe and the United States to discover why, and will have to take Pinatubo into account.

The most interesting possibility is that eruptions of the El Chichon and Pinatubo variety may have taken place many times in the past, contributing to big climatic variations. The geological record is no help, because the calcium sulphate that Belgian researchers have regarded as indicators of sulphur dissolves rapidly and is not preserved. This makes it impossible to examine geological strata and detect eruptions that might have caused large climatic changes.

If sulphur-rich eruptions are much commoner than previously assumed, it means the climate has long been subject to effects far more powerful than anything man can produce. Such a conclusion would not invalidate concerns about global warming or ozone depletion, but it would put them in a different context.

UPDATE

The cuppa protection

GREEN tea may give protection against some cancers. Chinese and American scientists have reported. The team investigated after finding that stomach cancers are lower in areas of Japan where a lot of tea is drunk. They identified a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) called epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG) and showed that mice treated with it and exposed to carcinogens were less likely to develop cancer than untreated mice. The mechanism by which EGCG operates is not clear, but it may involve preventing the formation of free radicals, highly reactive molecules that are implicated in the formation of some cancers.

Space watchdog

THE American space shuttle Atlantis is to take off next Tuesday for a ten-day mission that will include deploying a missile-warning satellite. The satellite is intended to detect missile launches and nuclear weapon detonations and will join 15 similar satellites in orbit. The mission will also be used to study how well troop movements and other military activities can be observed from space with high-powered binoculars.

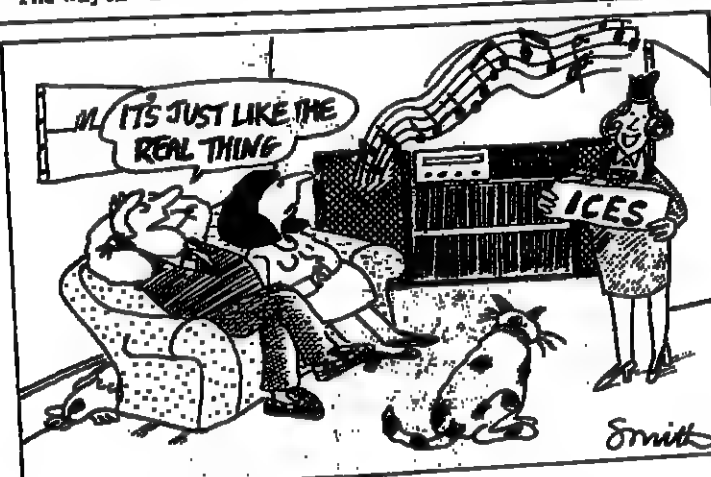
Deadly snowdrop

Scientists at the University of Durham have found that lectin, a protein produced by the snowdrop, is toxic to sucking insects like aphids and the brown planthopper. The finding, made in collaboration with the biotechnology company AGC, may make it possible to modify the genes of crop plants so that they too produce the snowdrop's protective toxin, and fight off damaging pests.

Micro-lasers

SCIENTISTS at AT&T Bell Laboratories have made and operated the world's smallest lasers. The lasers are 10,000 atoms thick, so tiny that 10,000 could be fitted on a pin head. The potential applications are in fast computers using light rather than electrical currents to manipulate data.

A Festival Hall in the front room



IMAGINE sitting down at the piano at home, playing Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata* and sounding as if you were performing in a great concert hall. If you prefer, the press of a button can transfer you and your piano into a magnificent cathedral.

The country that brought you karaoke now puts an orchestra in your living room. Such a room is available in Japan at about £65,000 and is expected in Britain within three years. Yamaha has

developed the sound system and sold about 2,000 of them, mostly to musicians and teachers. The room has to be totally sound-proofed and the walls covered with a material to absorb sound from the instrument or compact disc player. A system of four microphones is hidden behind the cladding, feeding into four loudspeakers.

Different effects are obtained by delaying the transmission of the sound, reflecting it from the walls

and varying volume. Yamaha engineers made measurements of a piano played in concert halls and rehearsal rooms and in a cathedral, empty and occupied, so as to reproduce them faithfully in a domestic setting. The measurements were then checked against the sound levels in the prototype room. Yamaha engineers showed that four loudspeakers made it possible to simulate the acoustics of five different halls by varying the volume through two neigh-

bouring loudspeakers and changing the direction of the sound reflected from the walls. The sound room can be turned into a theatre with laser disc videos and a large-screen television. The music-lover can watch a concert by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra under Herbert von Karajan in the Vienna Opera House and choose to sit in the stalls or up in the balcony.

DAVID TYTLER

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Polish turmoil as Walesa's candidate quits

From ROGER BOYES in WARSAW

POLAND was plunged into a government crisis last night as Bronislaw Geremek resigned as prime minister-designate. His candidature lasted barely six days.

President Walesa had given Mr Geremek, aged 59, a history professor, the task of finding a functioning, reformist coalition government before the first session of the newly elected parliament begins sitting on November 25. But Mr Geremek yesterday conceded defeat after being tripped up, above all, by the small, conservative-orientated party, the Centre Alliance.

Two ways out of the impasse remain. The centre-right parties may still be able to garner sufficient support to field a nationalist govern-

ment, or Mr Walesa could appoint a government of experts, perhaps, naming himself as prime minister.

Last night the key right-wing parties met at the offices of the nationalist Confederation for Independent Poland (KPN) to discuss if they could agree on a prime minister. The Centre Alliance is backing Jan Olszewski, a human rights lawyer, as its candidate for prime minister but it might be prepared to accept Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, the outgoing prime minister. Mr Bielecki is a committed free marketeer and admires Margaret Thatcher, who was his guest in Warsaw recently.

Mr Geremek's plan was to form a nucleus from among Solidarity-rooted parties — his own Democratic Union, the Centre Alliance and Mr Bielecki's Liberal Democrats. After agreeing on a reformist programme, they could then secure further parliamentary support from groups like the Peasant party. President Walesa liked the concept.

But the Centre Alliance politicians, who were once very close to the president, walked out of a crucial meeting on Tuesday, sabotaging Mr Geremek's proposed government line-up. "I concluded at that moment that my idea of government stood no chance," Mr Geremek conceded yesterday.

The divisions between the parties, most of which have a shared history of struggle in the anti-communist underground, centre on economic and philosophical differences. All the right-wing parties, apart from Mr Bielecki's Liberal Democrats, favour a softer shift to the market, protection for key industries and some subsidies for farmers. That will make a right-wing government of militant Catholics, strident nationalists and committed free marketeers a complex and unstable arrangement.

The right-wing parties disagree with Mr Geremek's Democratic Union on fundamental philosophical issues. They say that the one conclusive result of Poland's first fully free elections on October 27 was that Poles wanted radical changes on social and political issues. Mr Geremek, however, had been too closely associated with the first Solidarity government and to accept him as prime minister would be a vote for continuity and not for change.

The Centre Alliance is pressing for a clean break with the past, including the prosecution and trials of former communists. Mr Geremek and his colleagues, however, are resolutely opposed to this.

● Poznan: about 50 English fans demolished a nightclub early yesterday near the soccer stadium where England played Poland in a European qualifying match last night. Hundred of police reinforcements, including anti-terrorist troops, were called out to keep law and order throughout this western Polish city before and after the key contest. (AP)

Spies to join list of jobless

From IAN MURRAY in BERN

GERMANY'S spies are being offered early retirement in an effort to trim the payroll of the three different services, which made up one of the world's more complex and efficient networks in the Cold War.

A group from the Bundestag's budget committee met yesterday behind locked doors to agree how many spies should be shed in the interests of saving money. Konrad Porzner, president of the federal information service, gave evidence about the activities of his 7,000 agents.

Afterwards, Herr Porzner said cryptically: "In the measure in which the tasks of the service are being cut back there will obviously have to be personnel reductions." This meant that the service no longer has to operate in East Germany, where 10 per cent of its agents used to be deployed. Therefore at least 700 jobs are to go, although Herr Porzner hinted that he was looking for up to 1,000 redundancies.

This should make possible a saving of around DM50 million (£17 million). The service will continue to watch developments worldwide, especially in the Soviet Union, as well as monitoring international terrorism, drug trafficking and illegal technology transfers.

An even higher proportion of cuts is being sought from among the 2,435 agents working for the federal office for protection of the constitution, the Cologne-based German counter-intelligence service. In order to lose 400 jobs over the next five to eight years, the agency is to merge some sections. Agents covering the activities of the far left and those looking up, as are the two sections dealing with tracking foreign spies in Germany. The section dealing with neo-Nazi extremists is being strengthened. The military intelligence service is also being asked to cut staff.

How sports giants court Aids danger

From WILLIAM CASH in LOS ANGELES

SPORTSMEN across the United States have been urged to change their "on the road" lifestyles following "Magic" Johnson's admission that during his bachelor days he was involved with so many women that it was impossible to pinpoint which one infected him with the HIV virus.

Writing in *Sport Illustrated*, Johnson said: "Before I was married, I truly lived a bachelor's life. As I travelled around NBA cities, I was never at a loss for female companionship... I confess I did my best to accommodate as many women as I could — most of them through unprotected sex."

Such confessions appear to be widespread in the sporting world. In his autobiography *A Few From Above*, published last month, Wilt Chamberlain, another basketball legend, wrote that he had had sex with about 20,000 women throughout his career. Now aged 55, that means having had a different woman for every day of his life.

Likewise, Dallas Cowboy line-backer Thomas Henderson, in his book *Out of Control: Confessions of an NFL Casualty*,

wrote: "In my five years in Dallas, I must have had affairs with over 1,000 women, from one-night stands to three-day romances to four or five women a night at the orgies. That's just the way it was being a football player in Dallas, Texas."

On the cover of the autobiography of the New York Yankees' first baseman, Joe Pepitone, the blurb goes: "Girls, girls, girls, including wives, hookers, party chicks, baseball groupies, stewardesses, and all other available sack mates, night and day and in between."

Before news of "Magic" Johnson's infection, stories of sexual conquest off field were often glorified as much as conquests on the field. Whereas, in the past, blood spilt on the field of play was considered both honourable and perfectly normal, doctors, managers and health bodies have now called for regular mandatory testing for HIV among sportsmen and for increased safety measures to be taken when players are cut or injured during the course of games. At present, none of the four main professional sports in the United States have mandatory testing.



Roses of respect: Gerard Depardieu, left, the French actor, laying a single bloom on Yves Montand's grave at his funeral in Paris yesterday. Similar tributes to the man who hated funerals and cemeteries and had requested that there should be no priests or eulogies were paid by Catherine Deneuve, top right, and Alain Delon

Stars bid adieu to Montand

From LEE YANOWITZ in PARIS

ACTORS, entertainers and politicians paid a last farewell to Yves Montand at a simple, secular ceremony yesterday, laying red roses on his grave beside a giant floral silhouette of the Italian-born singer, actor and activist, who died of a heart attack last Saturday, aged 70. He was laid to rest at the Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris beside the plain, pink marble tomb of his wife Simone Signoret, the actress, who died in 1985.

Montand, as well known for his tempestuous love affairs with Edith Piaf and Marilyn Monroe and his political campaigns as for his films and songs, hated funerals and cemeteries. At his own wish, there were no priests or eulogies.

Four blue-uniformed pallbearers carried his coffin to the graveside. His last companion, Carol Amiel, and some 100 invited friends each laid a single red rose on the coffin. They included the actors and actresses Gerard Depardieu, Michel Piccoli, Michele Morgan and Catherine Deneuve. Several thousand fans gathered outside the cemetery. (Reuters)

Gorbachev 'protecting Honecker'

Moscow — Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, claims President Gorbachev is blocking his efforts to send Erich Honecker, the former East German leader, home for trial. "He is under Gorbachev's protection," he said in an interview with *Die Zeit*, the Hamburg weekly, before a visit to Germany next week. He said that Herr Honecker was obstinately resisting efforts by Moscow to persuade him to return voluntarily. (Reuters)

Ministry bombed

Amsterdam — Bombs exploded at the Dutch interior ministry in The Hague and at the home of a junior justice minister north of Amsterdam, police said. No one was hurt. The Radical Anti-Racist Action group claimed responsibility, saying it was protesting against the "dehumanising" Dutch asylum policy. (Reuters)

Spanish arrests

Madrid — Spanish police claim to have thwarted plans for terrorist attacks on the Expo '92 fair in Seville and the Barcelona Olympics with the arrest of two suspected members of the extreme left-wing organisation, Grapo. (Reuters)

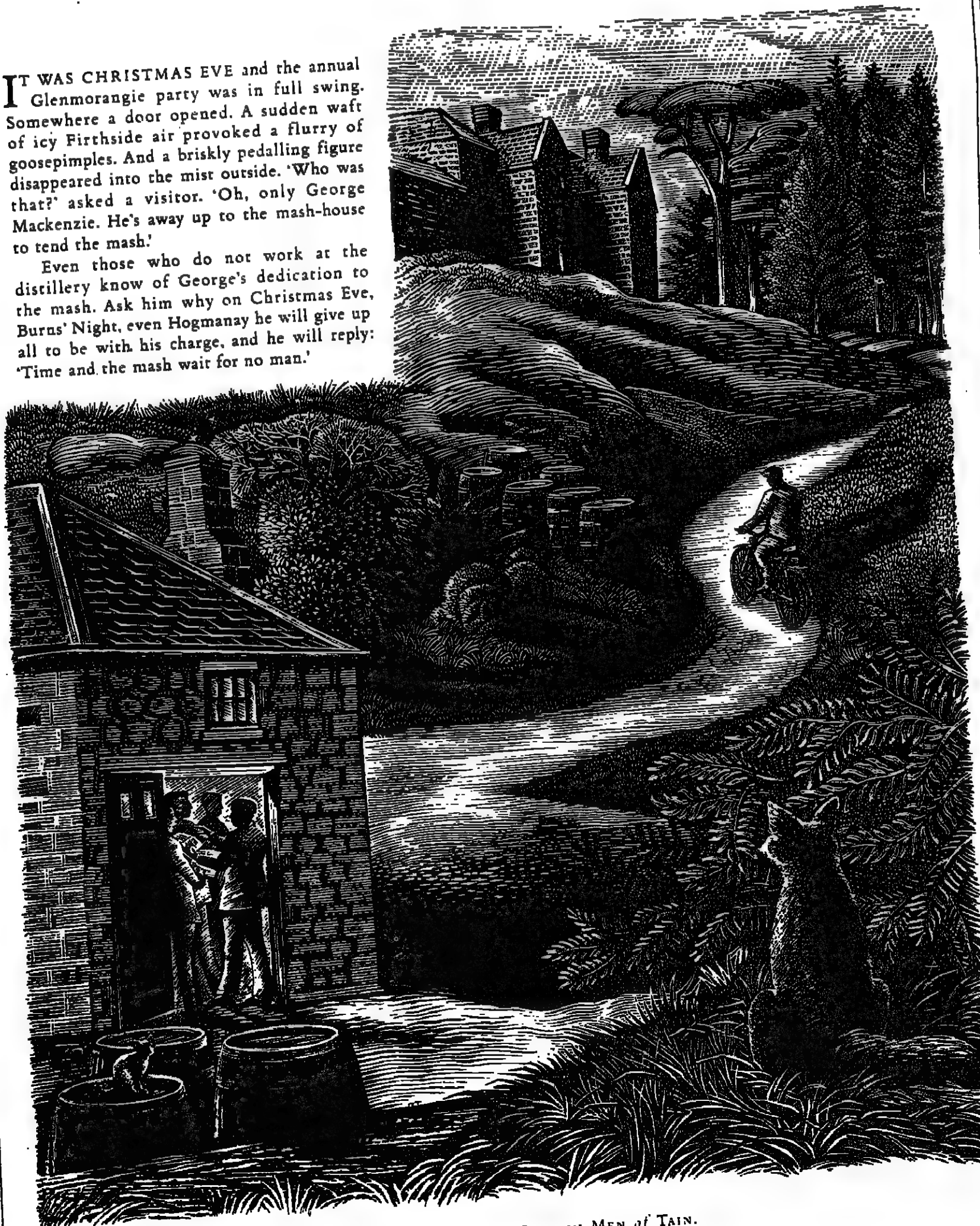
SINGLE HIGHLAND MALT SCOTCH WHISKY.

GLENMORANGIE

GEORGE MACKENZIE. Mashman.

IT WAS CHRISTMAS EVE and the annual Glenmorangie party was in full swing. Somewhere a door opened. A sudden waft of icy Firthside air provoked a flurry of goosepimples. And a briskly pedalling figure disappeared into the mist outside. 'Who was that?' asked a visitor. 'Oh, only George Mackenzie. He's away up to the mash-house to tend the mash.'

Even those who do not work at the distillery know of George's dedication to the mash. Ask him why on Christmas Eve, Burns' Night, even Hogmanay he will give up all to be with his charge, and he will reply: 'Time and the mash wait for no man.'



HANDCRAFTED by the SIXTEEN MEN of TAIN.

Evidence fit for an inquest

A thousand rumours surround the death of Robert Maxwell.

Dr Thomas Stuttford confronts the theories with the facts

Everybody who knew Robert Maxwell agrees that suicide was unlikely. It is also the experience of doctors that people intending suicide by drowning seldom choose to meet their maker asked.

The axiom is that if someone is found in water unclothed, or in a swimming costume, the death was in all probability accidental. Suicides do sometimes remove their jacket and coat, which are usually then carefully folded up and left on the beach or deck, but in general they are neatly dressed.

No surprise, then, that London abounds with rumours about possible causes of Mr Maxwell's death. Did he jump, was he pushed or thrown, or did he fall? If he had jumped had he intended to be picked up by another vessel? If he was pushed was it premeditated? Did he die as a result of a row and was this the easiest way to dispose of the evidence? Or did he collapse and later roll overboard?

The standard textbook of forensic medicine recommends extreme caution in assuming accidental death in cases where a body has been immersed in water and there is no actual evidence of drowning, particularly if there is any evidence of other injury. The late Dr Keith Simpson, that great pathologist, was perhaps more realistic: "Suspicious injuries, or no injuries at all, require the same commonsense interpretation," he wrote. "There must be some significant ominous finding before real suspicions should be aroused."

Examination of the hands and nails is an essential part of any post-mortem but is never more important than in the examination of a body found in the water. The pathologist makes a search under the nails, not just for evidence of skin which might have been scratched from an assailant but also because a patient when falling often grasps the deck or rails, or anything else that might provide support, and in doing so may have collected pieces of fibre from ropes, wood splinters or polish from the deck, or paint from the rails under his nails. The fingers and hands may be torn and scratched.

This is a routine examination, and even though it is understood that immersion in water for several hours might wash away the evidence, Mr Maxwell was examined in no different way from other people. Rigor mortis comes on earlier in bodies immersed in water than those exposed to the air and although the actual timing will depend on the temperature of the sea it is usually fully established by five or seven hours.

It may be important to know the state of rigor mortis when Mr Maxwell was taken from the sea as it could provide valuable evidence about the theory that he had been swimming for some hours before he died. Stomach contents would have to be carefully analysed, not only for any possible poison or infection but in order to determine the degree of digestion which his last meal had undergone before he died. Were the clams he ate for his last meal sound, or could he



Maxwell on his yacht Ghialaine: would he have committed suicide without his clothes on?

have been being sick leaning over the rails when he lost consciousness? Blood, too, will need analysis.

It is a matter of some regret that as Mr Maxwell died abroad, and was buried in Israel, there will be no opportunity for a formal inquest at which his family, and

his insurers, could air their doubts and ask questions of the expert witnesses. Inquests have been held on parts of a body; there is a well-known case where one was conducted on an RAF officer from whom only the lungs were available, and in London recently an inquest was held on a woman's legs and lower abdomen.

The usual criterion is that if life would have been impossible without the available part of the anatomy an inquest can be held.

Had Mr Maxwell's body been returned to London, the task of holding an inquest would probably have fallen to

Dr Paul Knapman, the Westminster coroner. The act stipulates, however, that an inquest is held near where the body lies, and although some of Mr Maxwell's remains are in England, Dr Knapman has no doubt that the law would take a commonsense view: his body, whatever bits may now be in Oxford, is now essentially lying in Israel and an inquest would be inappropriate.

What would an inquest have been told? The classic signs of death by drowning include water in the lungs and stomach, and if it is salt water, increases in the content of the chloride in the blood on the left hand side of the heart.

Naturally if the body is dead before immersion these changes are not found. If Mr Maxwell had had a heart attack after a long struggle in the water, as is now suggested, signs of drowning as well as of a heart attack would be expected.

However, the absence of water in the lungs does not necessarily mean that a corpse was not alive when it went overboard. The sudden shock of unexpectedly hitting cold water has stopped many hearts and in these cases death is instantaneous. Death from this cause is known as dry drowning and is comparatively common.

Now is it necessarily easy to time, as has been suggested, the moment when Mr Maxwell's forehead was bruised; if he died in his cabin and the bruise occurred from hitting the side of the yacht after death its appearance would be identical to that created if he was hit just before death.

Post-mortem examinations do not always reveal certain evidence of heart attacks; often the diagnosis is made on the basis of probability, without scientific proof. Mr Maxwell's last riddle may never be solved.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Gut reaction



PATIENTS usually discuss without embarrassment constipation or genital warts, but blush when admitting to excessive wind, more technically known as flatulence.

Dr Elizabeth Scott, an Edinburgh general practitioner, has reviewed the problem for the medical journal, *Praxis*. The human gut deals, when working efficiently, with seven to ten litres of gas a day, some of which has been swallowed, and some produced by fermentation. When the digestion is working well only half a litre is later expelled and only when this happens at an inappropriate

moment is the patient embarrassed.

A sudden change in the amount of gas produced, in the absence of any alteration of diet, warrants investigation to exclude pancreatic disease, or other causes of malabsorption, diverticulitis or other inflammatory conditions, the irritable bowel syndrome or even malignancy. Usually the patients' problems are dietary: too many peas and beans, too much wholemeal bread or cabbage, or an excessive love of bananas or onions can all increase the amount of gas produced by fermentation. Strong coffee, some alcoholic drinks or even emotional tension at meals can so stimulate the gut that its contents pass through too quickly for there to be the normal absorption of excess gas. Diets should be balanced and meal times relaxed but if this change of regime does not effect a cure there are drugs which will make most patients again acceptable even to the most refined social circles.

Don't be a flannelled fool

THE findings of the British Regional Heart Study published in the *British Heart Journal* on the value of exercise in middle-age could be taken as an endorsement of Kipling's opinion expressed in the *Just So Stories*:

The cure for this ill is not to sit still.
Or power with a book by the fire.
But to take a large hoe and shovel also.
And dig till you gently perspire.

The eight-year long study by the cardiologists showed that in this age group the heart attack rate of those who took moderate exercise,



and presumably gently perspired, was halved. On the other hand, those who took violent or strenuous exercise despite their increasing age and thereby joined "the flannelled fools at the wicket, or the muddled oafs at the goals" (Kipling *The Island of Life*), increased their chance of having a heart attack.

T. S.

A new catalogue of illnesses will bring its own relief

Rare syndromes shared

Ben Sinclair, aged six, was recently diagnosed as being one of possibly only 15 children in the world to suffer from a genetic syndrome described as "Floating Harbor" — an amalgam of the names of the two American hospitals in which it was discovered. "If I'd had a child with Down's syndrome I could have got a book off a shelf and found out what to expect," says his mother, Sue. "I wanted information — and nobody could give it to me."

Mrs Sinclair has three healthy daughters. "I knew Ben looked slightly different — a very wide-bridged nose — and he acted different and wasn't developing properly. I knew something was terribly wrong, but people treated me like a neurotic parent. I was sent from general medical doctors to growth specialists and speech therapists and, finally, to geneticists who thought Ben had enough features to make up a "syndrome" but weren't sure what it was."

Fortunately one of the doctors had an American article on Floating Harbor and through that Mrs Sinclair was able to trace Dr Robin Winter, of Northwick Park Hospital, Middlesex, who was familiar with the syndrome. He managed to put her in touch with two other parents of Floating Harbor children.

"Learning what they had been through was a tremendous help to me," Mrs Sinclair says. "It was wonderful to have assurance about the functioning of Ben's heart and other organs, and to know more about what to expect."

To discuss the formation of a Floating Harbor support group, Mrs Sinclair yesterday met Christine Lavery, who has just launched the first of a series of directories of rare syndromes in children with their family support networks for the charity Contact A Family (CAF).

Mrs Lavery's directory covers more than 200 networks and more than 400 conditions. From Abetalipoproteinemia to Zellweger Syndrome, "Let-100s about 1,500 different diseases have crossed my desk," she says.

The directory, a £43 looseleaf binder intended for use in hospitals and clinics, lists support groups and describes in a manner that symptoms in as well as should help parents and professionals. Relevant pages can be taken out and it can be copied for parents — and it can be updated regularly, such as include new disorders, such as Floating Harbor, as they are discovered.

Mrs Lavery also runs the Mucopolysaccharide (MPS) Diseases support group, which

celebrates its 10th anniversary next year. It was formed on the day that her eldest son, Simon, died from Hunter Syndrome, an MPS disease. "We know that all our children with the disease will die young, yet we are a very young, yet we are a very positive and constructive group," she says, "as are all the groups I have talked with."

Her support network does more than simply provide a sympathetic shoulder for more than 40 families. It has



Sue Sinclair and son Ben, who has Floating Harbor syndrome

raised funding for two consultant paediatricians at specialist in MPS diseases at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital — and endorses dialogue with professionals around the world which helped, she says, with the discovery of the Hunter gene last August. "That was a breakthrough. Because it's an X chromosome-linked condition that is carried by girls and affects boys, so it has implications for future generations," Mrs Lavery points out.

Her son Simon, born in 1974, was diagnosed in 1976. "We decided we'd like to be in touch with another family that had experienced this disease and were told there weren't any. We approached a medical journal and were told they didn't respond to non-medical enquiries. Finally we had a letter published in the *Mencap* magazine and as a result of that 40 families contacted us who all had been led to believe they were the only ones experiencing this."

Mrs Lavery learnt that she was a carrier, so when she became pregnant again, with Andrew, now 13, she was able

to ask for an amniocentesis to determine if the fetus would be affected. "By the time the results came back I was over 30 weeks pregnant — but fortunately they were good," Benjamin, who is now 10, was also clear of the disease — but her daughter Lucy, 4, is a carrier.

Mrs Lavery knows that any daughters of hers, although free of the disease themselves, will have to face the same decisions. She hopes that by



VICTORIA MCKEE

that time diagnosis and treatment will be better; there may even be prevention. To some stricken families, the concept of joining a support group may seem cloyingly claustrophobic. Doctors generally seem to regard them as worthwhile only in terms of empathy. But those behind them argue that they provide vital practical advice and information which is often overlooked by specialists.

Mrs Lavery emphasises that no two victims of the same syndrome are exactly alike, but that understanding the possibilities can be a tremendous help to parents. Now Mrs Lavery intends to press the Department of Health to set up some sort of computerised national database of these specific disease groups which would, for the first time, give an accurate picture of how many families are affected by them.

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• The CAF Directory is available from Contact A Family, 16 Strutton Ground, London SW1P 2HP (£43, including p&p). Updates cost £10. The CAF Helpline: 071-222 2695, ask for parent advisers.

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Magical revolution meets the real world

Victoria Glendinning reviews a cha-cha-cha Latin American novel of ideas, that is also a history seminar and a sexual pantomime

ALL modern revolution does is to create a new elite. Why? The old elite was more elegant and practised in the very thing the new elite is going to do: mete out injustice. This novel is a dramatised discussion about the nature of revolution. National independence, Carlos Fuentes stresses, does not solve the eternal realities of injustice, cruelty and greed. There is an illusion of brotherhood during the armed struggle, but freedom from the oppressor does not bring social equality. What he has to say is obviously relevant to the USSR and Eastern Europe now — but he is writing about Latin America in the early 19th century, and the heroic risings against Imperial Spain.

His hero is young, plump, curly-haired Baltasar Bustos, inspired to fight for love and justice by philosophical discussions in the cafes of Buenos Aires and by his reading of Rousseau. He wears undying love for Ofelia, the wife of a Spanish administrator. He has never spoken to her, and only glimpsed her once, naked in a cloud of gauze and talcum powder. He idealises Ofelia as he idealises the oppressed Indians, blacks and mestizos, assuming that his twin passions will culminate in erotic bliss for himself and happiness for the masses. With his spectacles and his umbrella, he takes to the mountains of Peru with a band of ferocious freedom fighters.

Bustos, the myopic romantic, is brought face to face with reality without altogether reneging on his visions. All extremes meet: "Can there be tradition without revolution?" If you want a novel of ideas, this is it. It is also a novel of unreason and dream. The rebel Mexican priest who dominates the last chapter of the book (and who

would be at home in Greenland) asserts that the only real sin is to separate the material world from the spirit world. The idea of God is absurd. Therefore simple faith is doubly absurd, and so is being dazzled by any one moral or political idea: "There has to be a problem."

Fuentes weaves his arguments around a comic opera world of sexual fantasy and pantomime pomps, as Bustos dreams of women with breasts between their legs, and the grandees of the tottering imperial regime parade in their silver-trimmed coats, silk

THE CAMPAIGN
By Carlos Fuentes
Translated by
Alfred MacAdam
André Deutsch, £14.99

trousers, white stockings, and powdered wigs. Bustos's dream of thousands of wild horses stampeding on the pampa is echoed by the packs of wild dogs bloodily massacred on his father's country estate by his father's private army of gauchos — violent, unpredictable and menacing. The Indians and mestizos for whom Bustos risks his life do not share his moral and political anguish. They want, simply, a bit of what rich crookes like himself have got. The crookes may want to get rid of the Spaniards but they do not want to share power. Bustos, in the guerrilla fighting, kills an Indian and realises that he could do it not because the Indian was on the royalists' side but because he was an Indian — "weak, poor, different".

The only problems in this wise and witty book are technical. The author has to convey a good deal of history to the reader in order to

make his narrative clear; he is writing for an international audience, and not everyone has the story of Latin America's struggle for independence at his fingertips. Fuentes delivers the historical goods in brief didactic dollops — which saves time, but makes you feel you are in a seminar.

The other problem is linguistic. Latin American novels can seem thrillingly exotic in English, not only because of their subject-matter but also because of their language. There are rhetorical flourishes inherent in the cultivated use of Spanish which derive from the elaborate way in which social relationships were mediated in the mother-country. Fuentes, making fun of the colonial rulers, invents a page-long exchange of fatuous courtesies between guests at a royalist garden-party about who will pass through a door first. Yet in a historical novel such as this, in which the language must tend towards the archaic, a faithful translation into English comes out heavy with orotund pomposities even where no ironies are intended. Sometimes the clash between the conventions of Spanish and English enhances the surreality that British readers expect from Latin American fiction. But sometimes meaning recedes too far, as in a description of "a baroque woman, of obscene sumptuousness, whose dazzling excretions and lugubrious rewards were seeking to revive something inert". Latinate nouns and verbs pile up on one another indigestibly like the potatoes which, we are told, take so long to cook up in the high altitudes of the Andes. This problem of lumpy language is one that Fuentes's translator Alfred MacAdam might well smash in the next two volumes of what is to be a trilogy.



Carlos Fuentes fires the first shot of a trilogy interpreting Latin America's struggle for independence, with relevance to our own times

Meta-whimsies o' the wisp

Things, in each of these novels, are never quite as they seem. Characters lie. Thoughts are concealed by disconnected chatter, clues — a carelessly discarded straw boater, say, or a disappearing sherry bottle — are misleading, lingering smells are doused away by aftershave. In *High on the Hog* and *The Butcher* there's a purpose at work — infidelity and self-deception both demanding a certain amount of fact-dodging. In *Cley*, though, reality is just too flimsy, too flickering to be pinned down in words.

Literally-minded readers may find *Cley* drives them potty. Others should find it moulds itself into an arresting shape. A sort of sequel to *Richard's Feet* (though the events within it bear a parallel rather than chronological relationship), the novel is a lesson in contradiction. The hero, Jack Thurgoo, keen bookseller, bicyclist and mathematician, sets out with a brisk sense of completion. When his girlfriend, Chrissie, gets back from holiday he's going to ask her to marry him. In the meantime, though, he goes to stay in Norfolk with his old friends Sue and David. David's away, but Claire's there instead — a long slim girl with pale hair and transparent skin. Jack is already a little disturbed, but is even more disconcerted by an accident

involving a man he believes is his former schoolmaster, Bomber Bromley, but whom everybody else calls Arthur Sindacomb. Could it be the same man?

From the off, *Cley* has the pace, the attention to inconsequential detail, of a detective novel. Thurgoo, an engaging narrator with his cumbersome saddlebags and bicycle clips, has a persistently enquiring mind. What, he wonders, is going on between Sue and David? What could be read from people's features? Why do people lie? Who is Mrs Langley? He has an acute sense of atmosphere, too — noting every shift in people's behaviour towards each other: "There was nothing but the old relationship in her look." "Tea was grim." The prose has a lightness and humour that carries you over the oddities of the action (trips to Wales, goat contests, mismanaged couplings) combined with a stringent attention to the senses ("The train smelt like an ashtray"). "I listened to Claire coming down the stairs". The plot takes us to the edge of the extra-sensory, to hints of the paranormal, and there is much talk of philosophy. Even this, though, is handled

Sabine Durrant

CLEY
By Carey Harrison
Heinemann, £13.99
HIGH ON THE HOG
By Fraser Harrison
Heinemann, £13.99
THE BUTCHER
By Alina Reyes
Methuen, £9.99

with an enchantingly quirky humour. The tone — somewhere between the metaphysical and the whimsical — is summed up by Thurgoo: "I'm a Sufi", he says to Sue. "Bloody



Reyes: sex in the shambles

painful I can tell you."

Fraser Harrison's *High on the Hog* certainly manages to be two things at the same time: it's a Hamstead novel, with the unlikely setting of a pig farm. Here are the usual middle-class preoccupations — extra-marital dabbling, work troubles, parental and familial anxieties — all served up with a large dollop of mud.

Harrison is clearly not afraid to dish the dirt. His characters have serious things on their minds — will Michael leave Mary for Zara? Should Gregory tell Rose he's lost his job? How should Mary cope with the suicide of Liz? But Harrison places them in such absurd positions, smears their souls with such grimy associations, that while they may believe themselves to be plunging the depths of misery, we know they're simply down in the dumps.

Literally so at least. *High on the Hog* takes place at Christmas at the Albion's family home of Slaughterhouse Manor. Once a thriving farm, now falling into disrepair — the house neatly indicates the state of mind and body of its inhabitants. The post-stroke father is rotting away in his room, the eldest daughter feels her ovaries weakening every year, the son-in-law contemplates selling his major organs to help the poor. The novel is punctuated by Georgina's desperate attempts to keep the mud out of the kitchen, but the reader knows it got in long ago. The situation is funny, but there is no room for sympathy.

Even the vast life-affirming meal Georgina produces in defiance of the others, is grotesque ("a dozen opened tins of sardines, tuna, pilchards, corned beef, luncheon meat and frankfurter, their jagged lids standing up in a row like the crest of scales along the tail of some primitive reptile"). It's a messy read. Enjoy it, but don't forget your gumboots.

The association between human and animal flesh is left untrawled in *High on the Hog* (except for one bout of love-making in the pig shed), but this is far from the case in *The Butcher*. Translated from the French by David Watson, Alina Reyes's novel traces an unrelentingly erotic path of self-discovery. The story is straightforward — a young girl finds sexual fulfilment where she least expects it — but the language is as rich as calves' liver. Descriptions of hanging carcasses, slabs of raw meat, oozing flesh run headlong into erotic fantasy. Perhaps there's more to it than meets the eye.

CRIME fiction reviewers do not need a calendar to know that Christmas is approaching. They can tell by the post person's weary stoop and by the enormous bulge in the postbag. This year there are more anthologies than ever before. The re-arrangements and breakaways in the publishing trade have spawned anthologies where none previously existed. The old established *Winter's Crimes*, now in its 23rd year (edited by Maria Rejt, Macmillan £12.99) has direct competitors in the first *Midwinter Mysteries* (edited by Hilary Hale, Scribners £12.95) and in *Crime Wave 1* (edited by H. R. Keating and subtitled *The Annual Anthology of the Crime Writers' Association* Gollancz £13.99).

I wouldn't place too much emphasis on the last mentioned — apparently official billing — almost all the stories in these compilations are written by the élite of English crime writing, all of them members of the Association. Indeed, there is a great deal of duplication, though not, happily, of stories. Keating not only edits one of the books, but appears in all three: Peter Lovesey, Margaret Yorke and Robert Barnard also score trebles. This is good news for the reader, and persuasive evidence of the vitality of the short story. All are fun. *Crime Waves* has the most stories.

A Woman's Eye (Virago, £14.99), edited and intelligently introduced by Sara

Wintry tales of gore

Marcel Berlins

Paretsky, is the most beguiling of the thematic anthologies. Some of the (mainly) American women writers featured, like Sue Grafton and Amanda Cross, are already well appreciated here, but the collection shows again the depth of imaginative, and intelligent "modern" female sleuthery available on the other side. The following describe themselves: *Murder on the Menu* (Souvenir Press, £8.99), a weighty selection of food and drink crimes, including one of the greatest of all crime short stories, Stanley Ellin's "The Speciality of the House"; *Sinister Gambits* (Souvenir Press, £14.99), chesny mysteries; *Murder in the Vicarage* (Bell, £12.95), clericals; *Crime For Christmas* (Michael O'Mara Books, £13.99), cosy yuletide, homicides; and *Detective Stories from the Strand* (Oxford University Press, £15.95), among whose authors appear Somerset Maugham, Sapper, and Aldous Huxley.

Thief-Taker, by Alan Scholefield (Macmillan, £12.99). Emphatic proof that Scholefield's top-class debut last year, *Duty Weekend*, was no fluke. Cannon Street tecs Leo Silver and George Macrae, Jew and Scot, an appealing, apparently ill-suited partnership, investigate killing of shipping tycoon in high-class brothel, and the attempted rapist of Silver's girlfriend Zoe is out on parole and stalking. Characterisation well above average.

Bloody Instructions, by Simon Shaw (Gollancz, £13.99). Second exuberant appearance by Philip Fletcher, the outrageous thespian killer-hero of *Murder on 87th Avenue*, this time needing to show himself innocent of stabbing egregious American acting brat determined to "mangle" Macbeth. Wonderful array of bitchy suspects with ample motives, and a constant flow of backstage wit and hyperbole.

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Young man of the sea

Hugh Barnes

THE LAST VOYAGE OF SOMEBODY THE SAILOR
By John Barth
Hodder & Stoughton, £13.99

John Barth is one of the few really original talents to emerge from the bleak landscape of contemporary American fiction. A virtuoso of stylistic pastiche, he makes inordinate demands on the reader's attention. Vast novels seem to mix a crossword with tumbling historical narrative.

The Last Voyage of Somebody the Sailor resorts to dizzying complexity. What do

you not expect of a novel that begins with Scheherazade, the archetypal storyteller? No longer the ravishing beauty who told a story each night in order to live, she now strikes a bargain with Death, who will not let her die unless she spins another yarn. Her story boasts two narrators — Sinbad the Sailor, who is preparing to go to the magical island of Serendib, and a present-day American author of travel books, who is retracing the voyages of Sinbad.

Behler, the middle-aged writer, gets lost in a storm off the coast of Sri Lanka (anciently called Serendib) and is transported by means of a timewarp to medieval Baghdad, where he becomes Sinbad's opponent in a storytelling competition. The rivalry of storytellers allows Barth to juxtapose the fantastic Arabian material, and the low-key account of Behler's adolescence in a small town in Maryland.

Barth fits together the pieces of his schizophrenic double vision with unflinching gusto. The writing is imaginative and fiercely alive, yet it is clear-eyed, unsentimental. Even when a particular sequence does not appear to be working, you never give up hope that the author will somehow bring everything together in the end.

BURKINA FASO

THE PEACEFUL DEMOCRACY

BLAISE COMPAORE
REALISM AND INTEGRITY

BY JEAN R. GUION
PREFACE BY STEPHANE HESSEL

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JEAN R. GUION
BLAISE COMPAORE
REALISM AND INTEGRITY

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Kingsley Amis

Kingsley Amis will sign copies of WE ARE ALL GUILTY on Saturday 16 November between 11am and 12 noon at Waterstones in Hampstead.

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CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

Images that dart between the decades

Geoff Brown reviews *Toto the Hero*, *City of Hope* and the first offerings from the MGM Trocadero, the West End's newest cinema

When a Belgian circus clown turns film director, you must expect something a little odd. *Toto the Hero* (15, Curzon Mayfair) — winner of the Caméra d'Or prize for the best first feature at Cannes this year — never disappoints for a second. Tulips wave in time to Charles Trenet's song "Bourne", used as the film's bouncy refrain. Characters are equally capricious. Toto's father vanishes from the plot when he fails to return from a wartime flight to fetch English marmalade for a neighbour's store, while his sister Alice goes up in flames in an arson attack.

Toto — real name Thomas — survives childhood, but carries a strange burden: he believes he was switched at birth with the boy next door. Images dart between decades, catching Toto as a wide-eyed child, down-trodden adult and embittered old man. We are kept on our toes.

The man behind this whirlwind is 34-year-old writer and director Jaco van Dormael. He knows and loves the child's mind; aside from his time with Belgium's "Big Flying Circus", he staged children's theatrical entertainments before buckling down to cinema studies and a career in documentaries and shorts. Early scenes endearingly capture the child's off-beat view of life and the universe.

Young Toto (feetingly played by Thomas Godet) imagines his future as a secret agent. Yet adulthood makes him a dull surveyor and a thwarted lover: it is his neighbour Alfred — the other changeling — who reaps success. In crabbled old age, Toto (now played by Michel Bouquet) rediscovers youth's insouciance and plots his final revenge on the man he believes stole his life.

Van Dormael handles the grasshopper leaps with an aplomb rare in a first feature. At times his tale

becomes too convoluted for comfort, but it would take a scowling churl not to delight in its high spirits, absurdist comedy or psychological insights into youth and old age. These days the European art movie can be a stale commodity; *Toto the Hero* re-vamps the genre with new blood and fresh air.

City of Hope (15, Metro, Screen on the Hill) — the latest feature from John Sayles, most likeable of American independent film-makers — also keeps audiences in trim.

Thirty-eight separate characters weave through a script threaded like a bowl of spaghetti. A mobile camera follows suit, chasing one group down a street or corridor, then turning heels and pursuing another.

Sayles's theme is ethnic tension, decay and corruption in a New Jersey town. Two main stories are intertwined: the fortunes of Nick (Vincent Spanio), restless son of a compromised building contractor, who drifts into crime; and Wynn (Joe Morton), a black councillor struggling to get ahead without damaging his honesty. Alongside stand a fretful throng: cops, wives, shopkeepers, community activists, teenage muggers, sparring ethnic groups. Sayles himself — apart from his duties as writer, director and editor — adds salt to the stew as a blue-collar bully, skulking in a garage.

The film is darkly cynical, but dialogue crackles with life; Sayles has a marvellous ear for the rhythms of ordinary talk. Problems remain with the spaghetti structure: by constantly shifting focus, and refusing to shunt people into opposite camps of "good" and "bad", Sayles makes emotional involvement difficult. We watch, we admire, but remain aloof. Still, *City of Hope* is no film to ignore: this is cinema with surging electricity and grand ambition.

'It would take a scowling churl not to delight in these high spirits'



Capturing a child's off-beat view of life and the universe: Thomas Godet as young Thomas in Jaco van Dormael's *Toto the Hero*

London can celebrate a new arrival: the MGM Trocadero, off Piccadilly Circus — seven cinemas reached through the usual fairground of escalators and garish lights. The admission charge is £7 (plus a £3 offer for weekday matinees), which at least marks an improvement over the £9.50 requested by the refurbished Odeon West End. Several of the week's releases pitch their tents there: the best is *What About Bob?* (PG, MGM Trocadero, Odeon Mezzanine), a diverting, goofy comedy that gives Bill Murray — an unreliable comic — one of his sturdiest roles.

Bob Wiley lives in perpetual panic and drives psychiatrists to a similar state. His new victim is Richard Dreyfuss, brilliant, preening, with a best-seller published

and a vacation imminent. Wiley ferrets out the good doctor's New Hampshire lair, the wife and children love him, but Dreyfuss — with a television crew looming for an interview — desperately tries to show him the door. Bob remains; he is "human crazy glue".

If Bob came across as a pest — with Murray, the danger is real — then the jokes would quickly turn barren. But Bob proves genuinely likeable, an ideal foil for Dreyfuss's self-obsessed martinet. At times script and direction shoot off at tangents: writer Tom Schulman, an Oscar winner for *Dead Poets Society*, relishes Bob's sweetness, while the director, Frank Oz, favours apocalyptic black humour. Oz wins. But no matter: the wobbles in

tone merely add extra kinks to a film already shaped like a cork-screw.

Other *People's Money* (15, MGM Trocadero, Odeon Mezzanine) offers a muted variation on what is swiftly becoming a Hollywood cliché: Wall Street greed versus human decency. When the material first surfaced on stage in the late Eighties, financial piranha Larry the Liquidator seemed carved from the day's headlines. Now, over-exposure and the recession have almost made him a back number, though Danny DeVito works hard to resuscitate the ogre.

Prestige talent toiled to bring Jerry Steiner's comedy hit to the screen. Gregory Peck is Larry's victim — the folksy patriarch of a Rhode Island cable company, complete with pipe and a mug bearing

his nickname, Jorgy. Piper Laurie — always a welcome sight — plays his right-hand woman. Norman Jewison directs with an old pro's ease; while photographer Haskell Wexler — Jewison's camera eye on *In the Heat of the Night* — neatly pitches factory clutter against high-tech Manhattan.

Plenty of polish, then; but where is the punch? For all her prowess at sexual banter, young Penelope Ann Miller (Jorgy's lawyer) seems too flimsy an opponent for DeVito's predator. Jorgy himself is cut from cardboard: good for delivering a set speech bemoaning America's manufacturing output (hamburgers, lawyers, tax-shelter schemes), but a poor substitute for a rounded human being. Surface laughs apart, *Other People's Money* offers a low investment return.

BRIEFING

Not in a shy way

A FIVE-hour television mini-series, *Sinatra*, will chronicle the life and times of Ol' Blue Eyes, from the age of 19 to his comeback at Madison Square Garden in 1973. Sinatra himself is taking a close interest in the project, which goes into production early next year, and his daughter Tina is the executive producer. The series presents as characters all his wives to date: Nancy, Ava, Mia and Barbara, as well as Sammy Davis Jr, Humphrey Bogart, Dean Martin, Peter Lawford, a clutch of Kennedys and "underworld figures". The director will be James Sadwith. Meanwhile the real Sinatra, now 75, will be singing at the Garden's 19,000-seater arena on Saturday.

The real fang

FRANCIS Ford Coppola's film *Dracula*, now in production, will have 60 sets and "as many special effects as *Terminator 2*", says the director. But there is an old-fashioned touch to his thinking. "We will use a lot of magicians, mirrors and trapezes instead of the optical house. It will be part of the performance." The film is based on the original Bram Stoker novel, not the 1920 play nor the many previous films.

Last chance...

ERNST Barlach was always an odd man out in early 20th century German art, not quite an exhibitionist, hardly an unsparingly realist, balanced awkwardly for easy categorisation between sculpture and graphic art. The show at the Goethe Institute (071-561 3344) impressively samples his sculpture, but concentrates mainly on the great series of woodcuts and lithographs which have lost none of their power to impress and amaze. Ends tomorrow.

ARTS REVIEWS

Opera and Theatre

page 22

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Maverick who beat the system

Gennadi Rozhdestvensky brings his Swedish orchestra to London. Hilary Finch met him

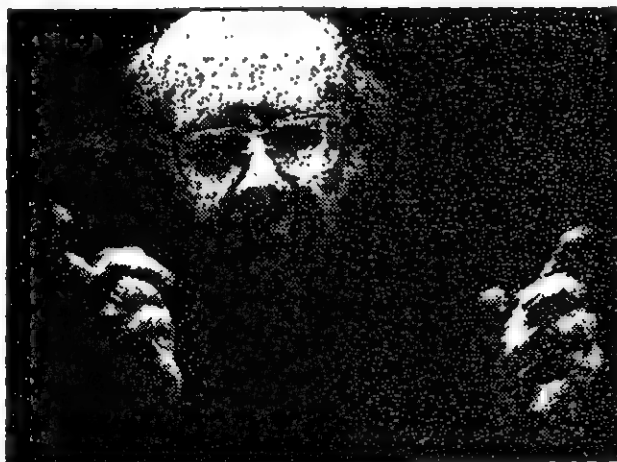
Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, the Soviet Union's senior conductor, has returned to Stockholm, and the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic is back in Britain. Rozhdestvensky's first period in Stockholm (1974-77) made history: it was the first time a Soviet conductor had been allowed to take on such a post outside the Eastern bloc, and was part of a politically motivated cultural relationship between Sweden and the Soviet Union.

His new appointment as music director in Stockholm, which he took up in August, follows his musically happy, if politically fraught, sojourn with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and an interim period with the Vienna Symphony. During that time he again made history, breaking off his connections with the monopolistic Soviet agency, Goskonsert, and demanding the right to negotiate all his

own contracts with the West.

The RSP's visit to Birmingham, London, and Glasgow next week celebrates the latest strand in Rozhdestvensky's self-determined musical career. He is a unique figure in modern Soviet music: a maverick who has nevertheless managed to prosper within the Soviet establishment.

"I am not a revolutionary but, yes, there have been happy consequences of the stand I had to make," he says of his battle with the notoriously inert Goskonsert. The irony of it all is that Rozhdestvensky's stand has persuaded many Russian artists to go further, and cut their ties altogether with their homeland. The country is being bled of its finest musicians. That includes the members of Rozhdestvensky's own home orchestra, the newly named Moscow Capella Sinfonica.



Rozhdestvensky: made a stand for self-determination

"Musicians prefer to work abroad. The greatest difficulty is simply to keep our musicians. No one knows what will happen from day to day."

At the moment, however, Rozhdestvensky's obsession is not with Russian politics but with Swedish music — a reminder of the age-old relationship between the two countries. His love of Swedish music started when he discovered the work of Johan Heinrich Roman, known as the Swedish Handel; he is busy making a transcription of the suite Roman composed in 1728 for the Russian ambassador. And his enthusiasm for the music of Berwald, Ingvar Lidholm (whose *Kontakion* he

brings to Britain) and Daniel Bortz fits usefully with what the RSP requires.

Rozhdestvensky is, of course, no small marketing asset to an orchestra which finds itself pioneering a new financial path in a changing Scandinavia. As the Swedish socialist-market-economy dream fades, the RSP's state subsidy has fallen from 90 per cent in the 1970s to 60 per cent. But the orchestra has secured a stunning sponsorship deal with an insurance company: a three-year contract worth £500,000 with no strings attached. It has chosen to spend the money on this British tour and a new recording contract with Chandos.

● The Royal Stockholm Philharmonic plays at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, tomorrow; Royal Festival Hall, London on Saturday; and Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow, on Sunday

ARTS FUNDING: MUSEUMS

Hot seats and begging bowls

While the performing arts may have had many of their financial problems solved with the record Arts Council budget announced last week, the national museums have not.

Grants for national museums go up by only 5.7 per cent, and according to Neil MacGregor, director of the National Gallery, the prognosis is "very worrying".

But while directors are worried, it will probably be the chairmen who lead the fight on behalf of the museums and galleries. Two years ago five national museum chairmen were so frustrated by the lack of ministerial understanding of their institutions' financial needs that they wrote to the prime minister and got extra funds for a year.

The role of chairman of trustees of national museums and galleries has never been more important. While the directors are the divisional commanders of the curatorial armies, chairmen — with their business and political connections — are the generals. Trustees are now selected for their skills rather than their illustrious names, and they are expected to work for their museums on sub-committees and to push their cause in their other areas of influence, like good staff officers.

But the general has become more and more crucial. One national museum trustee said:

National museum chairmen appear to be increasingly reliant on personal contacts to increase funding, Simon Tait reports

"The only committee that counts now is a committee of two, the chairman and the director. They meet at least weekly and they make the crucial connections and the crucial decisions."

The National Gallery's next chairman is to be Nicholas Baring. In January he succeeds Lord Rothschild, who leaves the post after six years. Rothschild's personal memorial will be the magnificent Berggruen Collection, now on loan to the gallery. It was his friendship with the owner which won the loan against competition from Paris, Madrid, Geneva and New York.

Neil Cossons, director of the Science Museum, has become a close friend of his chairman, Sir Austin Pearce, but the demarcation of their

roles is precise. "He and the trustees set the policy and I find the means to carry it out," says Cossons. "But he and I meet regularly." Their partnership has brought radical changes — the restructuring of the staff, the recasting of the principal galleries, the introduction of franchise shops and admission charges.

Lord Armstrong had been head of the civil service before becoming chairman of the Victoria and Albert Museum. At the beginning of 1989 it was his partnership with the new director, Elizabeth Esteve-Coll, which made the key decisions to restructure the staff, leading to the redundancy of eight senior curators and questions in both Houses.

In August when the National Museums of Scotland announced the winning architects for their new Museum of Scotland — the Prince of Wales had resigned over the matter — the chairman, the Marquess of Bute, who took the press conference, Robert Anderson, the forthright director, never spoke.

Dr Anderson, in fact, is leaving to take over the British Museum in January, to be succeeded by Mark Jones, a 40-year-old British Museum scholar who has had his own department for only 15 months. The controversy over the new building, which is likely to cost £40 million, has not gone away and Jones's success in handling it will have much to do with his relationship with Lord Bute. Dr Anderson will take charge of the British Museum, where he has to find £60 million to fill the space left by the British Library. Without the strong arm of his chairman, Lord Windlesham, he could fail.

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A PRECIOUS RIGHT

If political asylum is systematically abused, it will lose its honoured status, becoming merged with the generality of immigration law. It will fall into disuse and freedom will suffer. Kenneth Baker was right in the Commons yesterday to argue that the rules for the screening of asylum seekers to Britain, formulated when abuse was less of a problem, need to be tightened.

The current procedures are in danger of being overwhelmed by a near tenfold increase in the number of applications over the past three years, to over 50,000 this year. But ahead of yesterday's second reading of the asylum bill, questions were raised about whether Mr Baker is risking the exclusion of genuine refugees. The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster sounded a warning on this in a joint letter to *The Times* yesterday.

Under the 1951 United Nations convention on refugees, Britain is bound to admit those it is satisfied have "well-founded" fears of persecution in their home countries. At first, these were typically individual victims of communist regimes. Now, many applicants are families or groups who fear general rather than specific persecution, perhaps because they belong to an ethnic minority or live under a Third World dictatorship. And there is an uncertain line between political and economic migrants.

Mass air travel has enabled many more to escape from economic and political upheavals in the East and the Third World. There is indeed evidence of organised abuse. But people claiming asylum and refugee status are protected from expulsion until their claims have been adjudicated. Processing has taken a long time, as much as two years. Until now most applicants, including those not officially classified as refugees, have been allowed to stay.

The asylum bill has the legitimate goals of seeking to check abuses and of processing applications more quickly. The aim is to ensure that most cases which go to a full

hearing are completed within 90 days. Applicants would face new, tough credibility tests. A new streamlined appeals procedure will be created with strict time limits, while powers are being sought to prevent multiple applications by fingerprinting asylum seekers and to expel those already in Britain who are refused asylum.

There are two remaining problems. First, some of the language used to justify the bill risks treating asylum seekers as guilty until proved innocent. Second, the revised procedures may exclude genuine victims of persecution. The timetable for lodging an appeal is too tight, in theory two days, though Mr Baker yesterday said he might reconsider this provided it did not add to the scope for abuse. Access to legal aid is also being reduced. These are serious flaws. A clever abuser of the system may be in a better position to gain asylum than a victim of persecution who may not understand the procedures. The Bar Council and the archbishops rightly see "little virtue in proclaiming a willingness to open the door to genuine asylum seekers if the path to it is effectively blocked by provisions which obstruct rather than facilitate access for fair adjudication on appeal."

Streamlining current procedures and reducing delay is justified in view of the likely further rise in applicants from Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Mr Baker yesterday warned of the dangers of an upsurge of support for fascist and racist groups, as in Germany and France. Faced with a community-wide influx, the EC needs to adopt common criteria for admission, even if Britain rightly insists on retaining its own border controls. Such barriers will not stem the flow of migrants, economic and political. Immigration policy will have to evolve to meet far greater pressures than that posed by the abuse of political asylum. But asylum is a precious concept and it must be kept available as a response to true persecution. To ensure that, reform has become necessary.

KEEPING THE HEAT ON IRAQ

The UN's steady progress in identifying and destroying Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological warfare capacity is gradually making President Saddam Hussein less of a menace to world peace. So much has been won by the unprecedentedly severe terms of the UN ceasefire resolutions, America's determined backing for their implementation, and the high calibre of the teams sent to Iraq. Yet this international leverage, so impressive where Iraq's weapons of mass destruction is concerned, has failed to prevent suffering by Iraq's people or to moderate Saddam's determination, having survived the Gulf war, to rebuild Iraq as a formidable regional power.

Lynda Chalker, the overseas aid minister, flies to Geneva today for some tough talking with the UN secretary-general's humanitarian representative, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, who will visit Baghdad this Sunday for the first time since July. Britain is unimpressed with the UN's handling of the "winterisation" programme in Kurdistan, where hundreds of thousands are still in makeshift shelters on the mine-ridden hills and in the villages flattened by Saddam.

She believes, with justice, that Prince Sadruddin should be insisting that Iraq comply with the UN's terms for using sales of \$1.6 billion worth of Iraqi oil to pay for the people's basic needs, instead of hoarding as he has that the UN should relax the conditions for the sake of Iraq's people. The UN terms were carefully drawn to stop Saddam diverting the proceeds of oil sales to rearmament.

Sanctions never covered essential food supplies. Iraq's food imports since March, some of it UN food aid, are estimated to have been near the prewar norm. Saddam's officials have kept food worth some \$4 million, including special foods for the under-fives, sitting in warehouses in Baghdad and Jordan. As for medicines, Iraq's own pharmaceutical warehouses are estimated to be half to three-quarters full.

In blockading Kurdistan, he is testing his

room for manoeuvre as he did with the UN's nuclear inspectors last summer. With thousands of Iraqi troops advancing the Kurds yesterday began withdrawing from the cities. The "safe havens" look less safe by the day.

Dealing with Saddam was never going to be easy. The West scored some early successes. Having said he would resist the safe havens by "all means", Saddam complied. The allied military presence in Kurdistan prompted him to open talks on autonomy with the Kurds. To get rid of the allies, he accepted UN policing of aid. But once the troops departed, Saddam ceased to take the autonomy talks seriously. The more he has been convinced that the world will not challenge him militarily, the more remorselessly he has increased pressure on Kurds, Shias, and political opponents.

On the humanitarian front, Saddam now believes it is he who has leverage. Next month Saddam's agreement with the UN expires. If he refuses to renew it, the UN must either withdraw from Kurdistan and the rest of Iraq, or decide to send what aid it can across the Iranian and Turkish frontiers without Baghdad's agreement. If the UN cavitates, Western governments should channel aid through voluntary agencies, paying for it with Iraq's assets in overseas accounts.

Saddam has boasted that Iraq can survive sanctions for another 20 years. That may well be true, and is an eloquent rebuke to those who believed that sanctions alone would force him out of Kuwait. Any popular challenge to his tyranny is impossible. Yet there are signs of strain, including schisms within the top leadership. His promise to lift the blockade of Kurdistan indicates that he remains wary of rekindling the world's interest to the point of risking renewed air strikes. The threat of force produced his climbdown over UN weapons inspections in the summer. It must be kept in reserve. But there can be no illusion that Iraqis will be properly fed, or the Kurds safe, while he is still in power. That is the limit to leverage.

DUNCES OF THE WORLD UNITE

Public opinion is rallying to a Hampshire teacher threatened with the sack for wanting to return to rote learning. And once again a (characteristically amateurish) survey has depicted the British as a nation of ignoramuses. The scholastics are rampant. The old ways are back, and it may not be long before the dunce's cap is reinstated by act of Parliament. Corporal punishment might be next on the revivalist agenda, on the assumption that the shortest route to a boy's brain is through the seat of his pants.

Who will speak up for dunces? No aspect of the new conservatism of the 1980s was more bizarre than the recourse to educational authoritarianism. Ruthless innovation was the rule for industry, banking, public administration, the welfare state. The great professions must be opened to competition, their unreformed practices rooted out. The free market was the great radical force.

Not in the schoolroom. The traditional framework of British education, in (more or less) direct line of descent from the monastic tutors of the pre-Reformation, is again in fashion. Parents feel more comfortable with it, just as they feel more comfortable with the old buildings and old values. The old-fashioned education which the upper-middle classes have always insisted on for their children at their public schools is now being demanded by others too.

This is ironic. There can be few institutions less like "life" than a school. Its hierarchies are based not on merit or effort or in-

centive but on age. The continental system, whereby lazy pupils are obliged to repeat a year, would never catch on here because it might upset the age-based pecking order. Schools are run by consensus, involving parents, staff and pupils; they are the ultimate collectives. Rare ones do encourage individualism, even eccentricity, but they seldom prove lastingly successful as schools. Teachers find them hard work and parents grow suspicious. No profession is as conservative towards its objectives as that of teaching.

Perhaps for this reason nobody has dared conduct the one survey that would clinch the matter, to prove the lack of correlation between academic success and subsequent attainment, all other things of course being equal. Though Winston Churchill did better at school than he later admitted, John Major did worse. From soldiers to novelists, from captains of industry to artists, superlative results at A level seldom act as the key to a golden future.

It would appear that nothing fuels the imagination or stirs the competitive juices quite so much as being sent to stand in the corner under a dunce's cap and the lash of a reactionary usher. Schools which fail to arouse the enthusiasm of their brightest pupils should not be surprised if such children are branded as dunces. Yet often enough, rebellion against institutional bondage is the first sign of creative talent, of an innovative, questioning mind. It is a wise school which treasures its dunces.

Dangers of Emu and 'opting-out'

From Mr Terence Higgins, MP for Worthing (Conservative)

Sir, Your leading article today, "An omen for Maastricht", is dangerous. It suggests that a satisfactory compromise has now been agreed on the economic and monetary union treaty and that the "opt-out" clause would effectively protect British interests. This is not so. Your view is based on a misunderstanding of the draft treaty. The print may be small but the issues are vital.

You state that "in the Dutch draft treaty the fiscal targets and central bank independence come into effect only at the final stage of Emu." Not so. Clause 104B and the related protocol would impose strict quantitative limits on both the fiscal deficits and national debts of member states as a proportion of their national incomes.

Any member state transgressing these limits would from the beginning of stage II in 1994 be subject to investigation by the Commission and criticism from the Council, which by majority vote could act "to bring the situation to an end within a given time period." The opt-out clause is very limited in scope. Its use would not prevent the imposition of binding fiscal limits in stage II, only avoid the penal sanctions envisaged in stage III.

In fact, central control of fiscal policy is not even necessary for the establishment of a single currency—witness the situation in the federal United States. It would undermine Parliament's authority over both taxation and public expenditure, which has always been the fundamental basis of parliamentary power.

Further intense negotiation on the deficit question is therefore essential if Britain is to be able to sign the treaty and not rely on a defective opt-out clause, which, as the draft treaty makes clear, would severely restrict our ability to influence the future development of the Community, while still bearing a high proportion of the costs.

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE L. HIGGINS,
House of Commons,
November 13.

Ridley and Europe

From Mr J. F. M. Pickthorn

Sir, Mr Nicholas Ridley's remarks (report, November 9) urging voters to choose candidates at the next election who are sceptical about Europe regardless of party, have caused disagreement even among some sceptics. The derogation of power from the House of Commons is a matter that crosses party boundaries and has not therefore been fully exposed.

As no party has adopted a line that gives voters a chance to choose, the matter should be put to a referendum, a constitutional precedent established by the previous referendum on the European Economic Community.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES PICKTHORN,
45 Ringmer Avenue, SW6,
November 12.

From Mr Ivor J. A. Parrish

Sir, We will be more grateful in the long run, perhaps more grateful than we are to admit at present, to those such as Nicholas Ridley and Norman Tebbit who apply a necessary political brake to our European development. Closer integration is inevitable and moving swiftly now; the brakes are not intended to halt us, merely to let us consider our history—today's and tomorrow's.

Yours faithfully,
IVOR J. A. PARRISH,
Little Walden House,
Ludlow Avenue,
Kidney Wood, Luton, Bedfordshire,
November 12.

Fusion power

From Professor Sir Hermann Bondi, FRS

Sir, Your report (November 11) of the remarkable achievement at the Jet (Joint European Torus) laboratory is disfigured by the suggestion that thermo-nuclear fusion promises to be pollution free. This is sheer nonsense though frequently repeated. Thermo-nuclear fusion would produce less radioactive waste than fission and some of the nastiest isotopes would be absent but there would still be a waste-disposal problem. In addition there is concern about the large quantities of tritium involved. The eventual acceptability of fusion power will not be based by exaggerating its advantages now.

Yours faithfully,
HERMANN BONDI,
Churchill College, Cambridge.

Globe theatre estate

From Mr Martin Clout

Sir, Your call (leading article, November 8) for greater protection for our cultural treasures is warmly welcome. Mr Michael Heseltine would do well to cast his eye towards the Globe theatre estate in Southwark. English Heritage's unhistorical approach to scheduling this site is of deep concern: far from being protected, 60 per cent of the Globe estate lies unscheduled, vulnerable to development.

Richard Burbage, Shakespeare and others leased an amalgamation of seven gardens for the Globe estate. Within this area were built the first Globe of 1599, the second (possibly larger) of 1613, ancillary buildings and associated features.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Industry's role with government

From Professor R. Bell

Sir, The central issue in the links between government and industry (leading article, November 5) is not whether there should or should not be a Department of Trade and Industry, but rather that its standing in government should be increased in importance and it should be required to perform effectively. It has to deal efficiently with routine matters that are required of it and to show perception in its wider support of industry. It is this latter point which triggers off most of the ammunition which is fired at it by its critics.

Manufacturing industry is now moving out of recession with a major pressure on it to improve the quality of its output and to increase the volume of manufacture. This is a time where government and industry have to get their act together. The challenge mounted by the CBI last week on DTI performance was therefore very timely. An open, frank debate between the DTI and CBI is a refreshing event.

The challenge of the CBI should be judged by the quality of its content and its motives, and the secretary of state for trade and industry should be expected to explain and defend the work of his department. The result of this debate could possibly be better communication between government and industry.

The leader's references to British industry implied that a collective term could be used, at a number of different levels, to describe what was expected of some 130,000 companies. The overwhelming majority of these are small and the British government, in common with the governments of many of our EC partners, has accepted the responsibility to be supportive to the smaller companies. One cannot instantly graft on a sense of paternalism to the big companies and expect the industrial sector to be self-sustaining. Here there is an important role for DTI.

Yours faithfully,
R. BELL,
Loughborough University
of Technology,
Department of Manufacturing
Engineering,
Loughborough, Leicestershire,
November 8.

From Dr Elisabeth M. Slack

Sir, On the day Eur Ing Sabry Grant's letter was published (November 8) concerning independent schools and careers in industry, 115 girls aged 12 from my school experienced an extensive familiarisation with local manufacturing industry, visiting the Carlsberg brewery and Avon Cosmetics. Intensive cross-curricular studies are now under way as a follow-up to this visit.

This is merely one of many activities that take place in my school. These include industrial links for 11-year-olds and an annual understanding-industry programme for sixth-formers. We also have a com-

prehensive work-experience programme.

I am an active committee member of SILC (Schools Industry Liaison Committee) which groups 29 independent schools for industrial experience including "hands-on" events, European seminars, conferences and regular newsletters. An example of this was a participative day run jointly by Texas Instruments and Acorn Computers for 80 pupils. I am immensely impressed with the resources and commitment brought to such events by the industries concerned.

Bedford High School is an independent school and is not at all alone in engaging in activities such as those outlined here.

Will all this bear fruit? Considerable changes in financial rewards are required to restructure effectively sixth-form and graduate career aspirations. In addition Opportunity 2000 must also deliver a realistic work environment for women. No amount of school-based exhortation to value industry is effective without industry providing the financial rewards and opportunities.

Yours faithfully,
ELISABETH M. SLACK,
Bedford High School,
Brotham Road, Bedford,
November 11.

From the Astronomer Royal

Sir, It is well known that Britain's scientific record is first class. Much of our success is in fact due to engineers working at the limits of technology. We really must raise the prestige of engineers up to that of scientists in the national consciousness.

Your leading article stressed the importance of paying industrial engineers more, and accountants and lawyers less, and such a move would make a big contribution. However, a sea change is needed in the schools and universities.

In schools our engineering heritage should be stressed as should the enabling efforts of engineers to make science happen. Perhaps there should be less Bismarck and more Brunel, less Wellington and more Whittle? In universities great effort should be made to recruit science graduates and postgraduates, particularly in the physical sciences, for careers in engineering.

In my own subject it should be commonplace for a brilliant physicist to follow a PhD degree in astronomy and with a few years' further research a short, sharp engineering course to enable him or her to gain a foothold in that field. For a young scientist to follow an early period unravelling some of the mysteries of the universe by an engineering career contributing to the wealth of the nation would surely provide a most satisfying professional life.

Yours sincerely,
ARNOLD WOLFENDALE,
University of Durham,
Department of Physics,
Science Laboratories,
South Road, Durham,
November 11.

American colleagues had become seriously concerned that most of their European partners were merely "fair weather" friends.

Surely the key is the maintenance of stability, and for the foreseeable future Europe will have to continue to co-operate successfully with its American partners.

The past year has provided clear lessons for all concerned with proper security in Europe and other parts of the world. The Gulf war was resolved by American leadership. The Middle East peace process was established by the American secretary of state. The EC on its own has so far been impotent on Yugoslavia. The transatlantic connection remains vital for a secure and widening Europe.

Yours sincerely,
PETER ROBINSON, Director,
Trades Union Committee of
Transatlantic Understanding,
Long Barn, Barn End,
Empingham,
Rutland, Leicestershire,
November 11.

Doctors and addiction

From the President of the General Medical Council

Sir, Your report, "GPs treated for alcoholism" (November 6), suggested that alcohol and drug addiction are widespread amongst the medical profession, and in the council's efforts to safeguard the public were undermined.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT KILPATRICK,
President,
General Medical Council,
44 Hallam Street, W1,
November 11.

aside by Philip Henslowe for the Rose). This limitation of statutory protection is as misconceived as is impatience to excavate the site. Excavation should take place only after all the technical problems of preservation and display have been solved.

The scheduled area should be extended to include the entire Globe estate. This would protect all the surviving remains. After excavation it will be clear which areas should be preserved; the remainder can then be de-scheduled and released for development.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN CLOUT,
Whitehouse Farm, Hoot Road,
Ninfield, Battle, East Sussex,
November 11.

Opera which may not be so grand

From Mr Geoffrey Lovett

Sir, It seemed highly unlikely that Meyerbeer's *Les Huguenots* would ever reappear at the Royal Opera House, so in 1987 I went to Berlin to see the production which Covent Garden has so misguidedly borrowed.

I was appalled at the huge cuts made in the work—act 5 being reduced from 55 to a mere nine minutes. Nevertheless the production could not prevent the dramatic force of Meyerbeer's inspiration in acts 4 and 5 from making an overwhelming impact.

Last year, on learning that the Royal Opera had engaged Mr John Dew, the producer in Berlin, to direct their new production, I wrote to Mr Patrick Carnegie, the dramaturg at the Royal Opera House, to plead that no such liberties should be allowed in London.

In his reply Mr Carnegie said that they would "try to be more sensitive about any cuts we make", and that "the intention is that our production should be a new one rather than a rehash of the Berlin version". I wonder why we have been fobbed off with Mr Dew's disrespectful view of the work?

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY LOVETT,
Bargate, Didsbury,
Barnim, Gloucestershire,
November 8.

From Mr Jacob de Vries

Sir, Bernard Levin complained that he had to pay a columnist's ransom to go to Wagner's *Ring* (article, October 21) but could only enjoy it with closed eyes. Your reviewer (November 7) wondered how John Dew's ghastly production of Meyerbeer's *Les Huguenots* could have been allowed to cross the North Sea.

It is not time that the Royal Opera House management stop contravening the Trade Descriptions Act and do what they seem fairly capable of doing: staging concert performances at the Royal Festival Hall or at the Barbican, leaving the theatre in Floral Street to a company that knows how to put on opera and cares about composers' original intentions?

Yours faithfully,
JACOB DE VRIES,
The Singers Studio,
13 Shaftesbury Avenue, Bedford,
November 7.

From Mr B. A. Tebb

Sir, I was delighted when the heckler yelped with his feet rather than his mouth during the interval of Monday night's performance of *Les Huguenots* at the Royal Opera House. Once he and a small "rent-a-mob" had left, the rest of the audience was able to enjoy this amazing version of Meyerbeer's opera. Our appreciation was expressed in the usual way at the end of this thought-provoking production.

Presumably the professional critics dislike "change" and something which is "different", because I also enjoyed Mike Ball's *Hunting of the Snark*. My advice is ignore the critics. Go and see *Les Huguenots*, and the *Snark*—judge for yourselves.

Yours sincerely,
BERNIE TEBB,
Poplars, Chalfont Road,
Seer Green, Buckinghamshire,
November 12.

Channel lights

From Captain Peter Lowe

Sir, Although you reported (November 9, last edition) that the Aurora Bonaldi was sighted as far south as Tyndale on the previous night, I would add that whilst crossing the Channel to Cherbourg on the sail training ship Sir Winston Churchill we, in latitude 50 deg 05 min north, were also treated to this stupendous sight.

Yours faithfully,
PETER LOWE (Navigator),
Sir Winston Churchill,
30 The Hard,
Portsmouth, Hampshire,
November 12.

One in the eye

From the Parish Priest of St Paul's, Munk

Sir, Why does everyone submit to the tyranny of press photographers and pose at their prompting? There must be some catalogue of OK poses which says, if you're not planting your tree you must do something with your hands. That includes holding hands with another, folding one's own hands (completely, determinedly, modestly) on bosom or chest, resting hand on spouse's shoulder or, if alone, adopting the winsome, well posed hand under chin, and always facing the camera.

If a lady hands me a cheque I think it appropriate to look at her gratefully, while she looks at me liberally, not both gawking at the camera cheekily. When I was ordained there was no official photographer but a couple of friends snapped random-happily, and mounted the results in an album with witty or moving captions.

If I were to be married I'm sure I'd rather keep a photo of the actual signing, even with my tongue out or her veil agley, than a posed "portrait with flowers", looking away from register to camera.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN J. SKIVINGTON,
The Parish House,
3 Prudhoe Villas,
Alnwick, Northumberland,
November 7.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 13: His Excellency Count Giacomo d'Amico was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from Italy.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Signor Livio Muzi Falconi (Minister Counsellor), Captain Antonio Giungato (Defence and Naval Attaché), Signor Norberto Cappello (First Counsellor), Signor Fabio Pignatelli (First Counsellor, Political), Signor Leonardo Visconti de Modrone (First Counsellor, Press), Signor Stefano Ronca (First Counsellor), Colonel Aldo Olivieri (Air Attaché) and Signor Luigi Marini (Financial Attaché).

Sir David Gillmore (Permanent Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Contessa Serena d'Amico was also received by Her Majesty.

Mr David Malouf, winner of the Commonwealth Writers Prize, was received by The Queen. Mr Inoke Falecia (Director, Commonwealth Institute) was present.

Mr Richard Samuel was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Latvia.

Mr Samuel was also received by The Queen.

Mr Michael Peart was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Lithuania. Mr Peart was also received by The Queen.

Mr Brian Low was received in audience by The Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Estonia. Mr Low was also received by The Queen.

The Right Hon John Major, MP, (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of Her Majesty this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Member of the Tiger Club and President of the Dawn to Dusk Competition, chaired a meeting of the Judges of the Competition this morning.

Later His Royal Highness, Colonel, Grenadier Guards, chaired a Regimental Council Meeting and attended a lunch at Wellington Barracks.

Captain George Roche was in attendance.

During the afternoon, His Royal Highness, Member of the Carriage Driving Awards Committee of Carriage and Coach Harness Makers Company, held a meeting at Buckingham Palace.

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The Duke of Edinburgh, President and Honorary Life Fellow of The Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, attended a dinner and presented the Albert Medal at the Society's House, London WC2.

Brigadier Clive Robertson was in attendance.

November 13: The Prince Edward, Chairman, this evening held a meeting of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group at Buckingham Palace.

November 13: The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this morning visited the Refugee Arrivals Project at Heathrow Airport and the Social Services Department, London Borough of Hillingdon, and took part in a seminar.

Mrs David Bowes Lyon was in attendance.

This evening Her Royal Highness, President, Riding for the Disabled Association, attended the National Conference Dinner at The Hexagon, Reading and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the County of Berkshire (Mr John Henderson).

Mrs Timothy Holderness Roddam was in attendance.

November 13: The Prince of Wales arrived at RAF Northolt in attendance of The Queen, Commander Richard Aylard, RN, and Mr Richard Armitage were in attendance.

His Royal Highness, Patron, attended the Marylebone Health Centre Fundraising dinner at the Inter Continental Hotel.

The Princess of Wales, President, Barnardo's, attended the Champion Children Lunch at the Savoy Hotel, WC2.

The King Commander David Barron, RAF, was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 13: The Duke of Kent, Patron of the British Computer Society, today attended the Awards Day at the Waldorf Hotel, Strand, London WC2.

Commander Roger Walker, RN, was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent this afternoon visited Sheffield and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for South Yorkshire (Lieutenant Colonel Hugh Neill).

Her Royal Highness opened the Trent Palliative Care Centre at St Luke's Hospice, Abbey Lane, visited Healey City Farm, Richards Road, and opened the Sheffield Kidney Institute at the Northern General Hospital, Sheffield.

The Duchess of Kent, Chancellor of the University of Leeds, this evening attended an informal dinner at Lyddon Hall, Virginia Road, Leeds.

Mrs David Napier was in attendance.

King Hussein of Jordan celebrates his birthday today. The Prince of Wales celebrates his birthday today.

Mr R.M. Walton and Miss C.J. Watkins announced the engagement of their son, Mr F.W. Walton, of Haslemere, Surrey, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs B.A. Watkins, of Llanrhystud, Dyfed.

Mr J.C. Whewell and Miss J.D. Grassie announced the engagement of their son, Mr J.C. Whewell, of Dr and Mrs W.B. Whewell, of Shephard, Leicestershire, and Joyce, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.L. Grassie, of Singapore.

Mr A.J.S. Willis and Miss L.A. Marlowe announced the engagement of their son, Mr A.J.S. Willis, of Great Ayrton, North Yorkshire, and Linda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Marino, of Wilbraham, USA.

Mr A.M. Woolley and Miss V.L. Turtan announced the engagement of their son, Mr A.M. Woolley, of Wintbourne, Bristol, and Vanessa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Turton, of Queensland, Australia.

Marriages
Mr N.C.D.A. Horn and Miss C.M. Russell announced the marriage to take place on Saturday, November 9, at Hilcot, Wiltshire, of Mr Nicholas Horn, son of Mr and Mrs N.C.D.A. Horn, and Miss Emma Russell, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A. Russell, of Cyncoed, Cardiff.

Mr D.L. Wallace and Miss E.L. Freagard announced the marriage to take place on November 9, 1991, at St. Mary's Church, Bolton Abbey, North Yorkshire, of Mr David Wallace, son of Mr and Mrs D.L. Wallace, and Miss Emma Freagard, daughter of Mr and Mrs E.L. Freagard, of Langbar, North Yorkshire.

The bride was attended by Miss Lucy Freagard, Melanie Thornton, Alice Lyett Green, Ben Thornton and Oliver Wilson. Mr Michael Holt was best man.

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OBITUARIES

HENRY HARPUR-CREWE

Henry Harpur-Crewe, squire of Calke Abbey, Derbyshire, died on November 8 at Warslow, Staffordshire, aged 70. He was born on February 25, 1921.

HENRY Harpur-Crewe was at the heart of a preservation battle which, in the early 1980s, propelled the previously little-known Calke Abbey, in south Derbyshire, to the centre of the nation's consciousness. The problems of Calke, an eighteenth-century Palladian mansion, began on the death of Henry Harpur-Crewe's brother, Charles, in 1981. Inheriting the property, Henry Harpur-Crewe found himself faced with a capital transfer tax bill of £3 million and a government reluctant to accept Calke for the nation, in lieu of payment.

It was Calke's misfortune that it was virtually unknown except among cognoscenti (and even some of them denounced its allegedly priceless collection of artefacts as "junk"). At that time, too, the National Trust was planning to take over the much-publicised Adam gate, Kedleston Hall, only a few miles from Calke. Fierce wrangles between reluctant government officials and the hereditary lobby developed over Calke while interest on the unpaid tax mounted remorselessly by well over £1,000 daily. A reclusive bachelor, Harpur-Crewe threw off the retiring habits of a lifetime and flung himself energetically into the struggle which was eventually resolved when, in his budget speech of 1984, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, announced a donation of £4.5 million to the National Heritage Memorial Fund, for the purpose of saving Calke.

Harpur-Crewe was born Henry Francis Jenney, grandson through his mother of the redoubtable Sir Vauncey Harpur-Crewe, tenth and last baronet. Sir Vauncey was a renowned eccentric who carried reclusiveness to such a pitch that he communicated with his servants only in writing and barred all motor vehicles from the grounds of Calke. He was also a whimsical tyrant who banished one of his daughters from the estate for life for smoking and had a cousin's house in the grounds demolished after they had had an argument. Sir Vauncey was a rapacious collector, filling room after room with stuffed birds and animals, seashells, pictures (of quality), geological specimens, snail

shells, swords, butterflies and a host of assorted bric-a-brac. These were piled indiscriminately into rooms, when one became full it was simply shut up and the collector moved on to the next.

Of this ramshackle collection, the house and its 14,000 acres of land, Henry Jenney found himself master on the death of his brother. In the interim he had served in the RAFVR during the second world war, been a Derbyshire county councillor and was a lay member of the General Synod. At the time of his brother's death he was leading a quiet, bachelor existence in a house on the Calke estate.

Changing his name to Harpur-Crewe, the new owner emerged from his cocoon of reclusiveness and set about confronting the well-nigh intractable problems of his inheritance. He could of course have sold Calke, but it had been the family home since 1703 and he was reluctant to do this. Merely voicing this possibility, however, immediately woke up conservationist interests and, amid a flood of letters from various people to national newspapers, the parliamentary heritage group visited Calke to form some opinion of what might be lost to the nation if the abbey were to be demolished. They found, by and large, an impressive exterior, a largely undistinguished interior and, natu-

ally, Sir Vauncey's inimitable, if intriguing, piles of junk. But it was felt that Calke was well inside the limits of what public money ought to be spent on.

The National Trust was keen to run it, but not without an endowment for repair and upkeep which would have to come from the government. Eventually the Department of the Environment declared itself willing to accept the house and its park in lieu of the due tax, but balked at taking over much of the farmland and providing an income to run the house. This caveat effectively scotched a rescue from that source. Edwina Currie, who had become South Derbyshire's MP in 1983, entered the fray, declaring of the Harpur-Crewes: "They have been the most benevolent landlords imaginable - but have not noticed any tax change since Lloyd George."

Suddenly the name of Calke was on every lip. It and its collection of junk were to be cherished as a "time capsule". Its bracken-covered slopes were held up as examples of ancestral landscape which it would be sheer vandalism to send under the hammer. The National Trust's publicity rose to new heights of lyricism in its advocacy of Calke, while its director-general castigated the government's reluctance to provide the necessary money to save it for the nation as

laboratory technician. After two years his work was acclaimed, and in 1966 he was re-elected as senior lecturer.

During the two years he spent in hospital undergoing surgery in the unconscious state, the cause of his blindness was many causes of blindness that were due to slow biochemical changes in the eye. He devoted the rest of his research career to this subject, publishing over 80 scientific papers, and becoming an international authority on diabetic retinopathy. He was awarded a DSc in 1970 and in the same year appointed a fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

In 1973 he was made a reader of London University.

At the same time he gave his skills to the service of blind people, serving on the executive council of the RNIB for 30 years. It was when he was chairman of the British Council for the Prevention of Blindness that his work did most to reduce the world problem of blindness. He retired in 1984 as emeritus reader of biochemistry and pathology and was appointed an OBE in 1990. He was able to brush aside the unfairness of the world through a combination of courage and humour. He leaves his widow, Rachel, and their three sons.

He leaves his sister, Miss Airmyne Harpur-Crewe.

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Sir Vauncey was a renowned eccentric who carried reclusiveness to such a pitch that he communicated with his servants only in writing and barred all motor vehicles from the grounds of Calke.

He was also a whimsical tyrant who banished one of his daughters from the estate for life for smoking and had a cousin's house in the grounds demolished after they had had an argument.

Sir Vauncey was a rapacious collector, filling room after room with stuffed birds and animals, seashells, pictures (of quality), geological specimens, snail

shells, swords, butterflies and a host of assorted bric-a-brac. These were piled indiscriminately into rooms, when one became full it was simply shut up and the collector moved on to the next.

Of this ramshackle collection, the house and its 14,000 acres of land, Henry Jenney found himself master on the death of his brother.

In the interim he had served in the RAFVR during the second world war, been a Derbyshire county councillor and was a lay member of the General Synod.

At the time of his brother's death he was leading a quiet, bachelor existence in a house on the Calke estate.

Changing his name to Harpur-Crewe, the new owner emerged from his cocoon of reclusiveness and set about confronting the well-nigh intractable problems of his inheritance.

He could of course have sold Calke, but it had been the family home since 1703 and he was reluctant to do this. Merely voicing this possibility, however, immediately woke up conservationist interests and, amid a flood of letters from various people to national newspapers, the parliamentary heritage group visited Calke to form some opinion of what might be lost to the nation if the abbey were to be demolished.

They found, by and large, an impressive exterior, a largely undistinguished interior and, natu-

ally, Sir Vauncey's inimitable, if intriguing, piles of junk. But it was felt that Calke was well inside the limits of what public money ought to be spent on.

The National Trust was keen to run it, but not without an endowment for repair and upkeep which would have to come from the government.

Eventually the Department of the Environment declared itself willing to accept the house and its park in lieu of the due tax, but balked at taking over much of the farmland and providing an income to run the house.

This caveat effectively scotched a rescue from that source. Edwina Currie, who had become South Derbyshire's MP in 1983, entered the fray, declaring of the Harpur-Crewes: "They have been the most benevolent landlords imaginable - but have not noticed any tax change since Lloyd George."

Suddenly the name of Calke was on every lip. It and its collection of junk were to be cherished as a "time capsule". Its bracken-covered slopes were held up as examples of ancestral landscape which it would be sheer vandalism to send under the hammer.

The National Trust's publicity rose to new heights of lyricism in its advocacy of Calke, while its director-general castigated the government's reluctance to provide the necessary money to save it for the nation as

laboratory technician. After two years his work was acclaimed, and in 1966 he was re-elected as senior lecturer.

During the two years he spent in hospital undergoing surgery in the unconscious state, the cause of his blindness was many causes of blindness that were due to slow biochemical changes in the eye.

He devoted the rest of his research career to this subject, publishing over 80 scientific papers, and becoming an international authority on diabetic retinopathy.

He was awarded a DSc in 1970 and in the same year appointed a fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

In 1973 he was made a reader of London University.

At the same time he gave his skills to the service of blind people, serving on the executive council of the RNIB for 30 years.

It was when he was chairman of the British Council for the Prevention of Blindness that his work did most to reduce the world problem of blindness.

He retired in 1984 as emeritus reader of biochemistry and pathology and was appointed an OBE in 1990.

He was able to brush aside the unfairness of the world through a combination of courage and humour. He leaves his widow, Rachel, and their three sons.

He leaves his sister, Miss Airmyne Harpur-Crewe.

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CYNTHIA FELGATE

Cynthia (Harris) Felgate, television producer, died of cancer on November 2 aged 56. She was born in Birmingham on October 8, 1935.

LARGELY due to Cynthia Felgate's vision and determination, generations of under-fives have been entertained and informed by toy characters like Big Ted, Little Ted, Jemima and Humpty in television series that have become household names - *Play School*, *Playaway*, *Playdays*, *Camberwick Green* and *Postman Pat*.

By chance *Play School* was the first programme broadcast on BBC2 when it was launched in 1964, and it continued to be transmitted five days a week every week, for the next 25 years.

Cynthia Felgate, who had no children of her own, was a founder member of the production team and executive producer when *Play School* was dropped - in spite of vociferous protests - in 1988.

After its demise she continued as an independent producer and launched its effective successor, *Playdays*. These programmes were in sharp contrast to the American cartoons and earlier, noisier productions like *Swampy Street* which make up the staple diet of television fare for children.

The *Play School* keynote was its slow pace, its quiet humour and its gentleness: and more than 70 per cent of the nation's under-fives watched the afternoon programmes and 46 per cent the morning ones - an extraordinary viewership. Not only did the programme rivet the attention of its young audiences but it was trusted by millions of parents not to scare or indoctrinate their children.

The concept was exported in kit-form and a dozen countries transmitted their own versions.

Cynthia Felgate's philosophy was simple: to create television programmes for pre-school children that reflected all aspects of their play, on the basis that play is a child's first school; and to show ways of developing play-time to make it more interesting or perhaps more stimulating.

Her programmes were primarily entertainment and only incidentally educational, and they were made with the single child watching alone very much in mind. Some adult critics complained that they were old-fashioned

and too middle class but the enduring appeal of *Play School* was indicated by the sale of videos of past programmes after live transmission ceased.

Cynthia Felgate's maiden name was Harris and she was the daughter of a Birmingham businessman. After studying at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama she was encouraged by her father to go into teacher-training so that, if a career in the theatre was not to be, she would have a more reliable qualification to fall back on. Two years experience teaching young teenagers in a Hackney school made her realise that, instead of going into the theatre, she wanted to entertain children.

She first joined Brian Wyse's Children's Theatre, which taught at schools throughout the country, and then joined the BBC as an assistant floor manager and worked on *That Was The Week That Was* and *Stepptoe and Son* before joining the children's programmes department.

In the earliest years of *Play School* Cynthia Felgate, as she had become, was not an ideal person, but she understood exactly how to make ideas work on television. She was the natural successor when Joy Whitty, the original producer, retired in 1969. From then on she made *Play School* her own.

When, in 1988, the powers that be decided that the programme was "dated", Felgate came up with a new format that retained *Play School*'s original concept but broadened the scope, widening the young viewers' horizons by using a toy bus, different locations around the country and introducing regional accents.

Cynthia Felgate is survived by her husband Richard.

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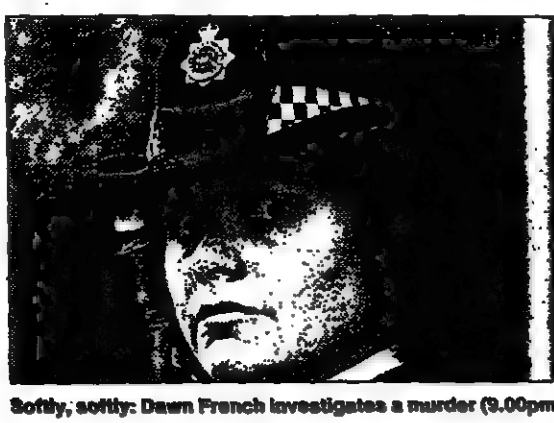
6.00 Ceefax 6.30 BBC Breakfast News
9.05 Kiboy Robert Kiboy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject. **9.50 Hot Cheese** Bruno Loubet prepares rice, pudding, croquettes with raspberry sauce.
10.00 News, regional news and weather **10.05 Playdays** (r) **10.25 Repeat UK** Advice on food to reduce cholesterol levels (r)
11.00 News, regional news and weather **11.05 No Kidding** Family quiz game show hosted by Mike Smith and Kate Copelick (s) **11.30 People Today** Includes *Bullseye* presenter Jim Bowen revealing his 'private passion'.
12.20 Pebble Mill Alan Titchmarsh talks to the celebrated Yorkshire Deafswoman Hannah Hauwaul about her recent tour of Europe.
12.55 Regional news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News and weather
1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) **1.50 Going for Gold** The articulate Henry Kelly with another round of his quiz game.
2.15 Films *Intrigue* (1947, b/w) starring George Raft and June Havoc. Run-of-the-mill B movie about an embittered pilot, wrongly dismissed for smuggling. He drifts to Shanghai and becomes embroiled with the same black marketeers who framed him. Directed by Edwin L. Marin.
3.40 Cartoon *The Bookworm Turns* (r) **3.50 Spider** Animated adventures 3.55 *Brum*. The antics of a little car that lives in a motor museum. **4.45 Get Your Own Back** Game show (s) **4.20 News** *Adventures of a Cat* Mouse (r) **4.35 Dark Season** Episode one of a new soap-drama's science fiction adventures (s)
5.00 Newsround **5.10 Blue Peter** unravels details of the 1991 Christmas Appeal. (Ceefax) (s)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) **5.40 One O'Clock News** with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather **5.50 Regional News** magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours **7.00 Top of the Pops** (s) **7.30 Eastenders** (Ceefax) (s)
8.00 Schofield's Europe A new series of six programmes in which Philip Schofield wanders around Europe visiting Amsterdam, Vienna, Barcelona, Reykjavik, Prague and, this evening, Istanbul. (Ceefax) (s)



Aspiring to tread the boards: John Gordon-Sinclair (1.30pm)

8.30 An Actor's Life For Me
 ● CHOICE: First heard on Radio 2, Paul Mayhew-Archer's comedy about a permanently aspiring actor makes a smooth transition to the screen with John Gordon-Sinclair reprising the central role. From Gregory's girl to Your Cheating Heart, Gordon-Sinclair has made a specialty of playing lovable losers, and Robert Nelson is another. Robert may hanker after playing *Hamlet* but all he can muster for his CV is a television commercial for after-shave. This does not deter him from trying to convince Kim Basinger that he should be her next leading man. The budget does not run to an appearance by Ms Basinger, but Gordon-Sinclair makes the most of a part perfectly suited to his amused diffidence. Glynis McKee (as the actor's girlfriend) and Victor Spinetti (his agent) are the main support in a good-willed and gently amusing comedy which is no less enjoyable for running along predictable lines. (Ceefax) (s)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martin Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather.
9.30 Smith and Jones, Mel and Griff present the last in the series of highlights from their past shows. (Ceefax)
10.00 So You Think You've Got Trouble Warren Mitchell stars in the comedy by Laurence Krause and Andrew Hargreaves about a London Jew who is sent by his company to work in Belfast.
10.30 Question Time presented by Peter Sissons. With Jennifer d'Abo and MP's Norman Lamont, Roy Hattersley and Alan Beth.
11.30 Spenser for Hirs, American detective series starring Robert Urich, in this story helping a friend framed for a shooting by a psychopath. **12.00am Weather**

8.00 Breakfast News 8.15 Westminster
9.00 Daytime on 2 Educational programmes
9.05 News and weather followed by *You and Me* (r) **2.15 Ceefax**. Plans Hala's *The Laughing Cavalier* (r) **2.30 Downover the Diviner**. The last in the series on Cornish water diviner Donovan Wilkins (r)
3.00 News and weather followed by Westminster Live presented by Vivian White **3.50 News**, regional news and weather
4.00 Catchword 4.30 Trivial Pursuit (r) (Ceefax)
5.00 Behind the Headlines. Jeffrey Archer and Tony Banks, MP, discuss the government's new asylum bill with Lurline Champagne, prospective Tory candidate for Islington North, and Ann Owens from the joint council for the welfare of immigrants.
5.30 Food and Drink (r)
6.00 Film: Top Gun (1986). The first in a season of Man from Uncle adventures, based on the television series and starring Robert Vaughn as secret agent Napoleon Solo. Directed by Don Medford. Wales: Delia Smith's Christmas 6.30 Eve and Marilyn 7.00 Through the Looking Glass.
7.30 First Sight: Dear Children... The story of Pamela Green's struggle for custody of her children abducted by their Egyptian father two years ago. Northern Ireland: Tomorrow's World: Wales: The Victorian Flower Garden. East: Metter of Feet; Midlands: Midlands Report; North: North-east and North-west; West: North; South: Southern Eye; South-west: Western Approach; West: Current Account.
8.00 The Victorian Flower Garden. The third of eight programmes. (Ceefax) (s). Wales: Between Ourselves
8.30 Top Gear includes a comparison of Citroën's new XM Estate with Audi's 100 Avant.



Softly, softly: Dawn French investigates a murder (9.00pm)

9.00 Murder Most Horrid
 ● CHOICE: A jolly police spoof by Ian Hesp and Nick Newman launches a new comedy series in which Dawn French, for once without Jennifer Saunders, shows her versatility by playing eight assorted roles. Here she is a humble traffic cop suddenly promoted to head a murder inquiry after a local planning officer is found swinging from a bridge. Hesp and Newman bring a neatly worked plot in which the 16 witnesses mysteriously disappear to Australia and the pathologist manages to decide that the victim died from a common cold. There are many treasurable lines, as well as pointed send-ups of police procedures, local newspapers and elderly judges. Sleuthing to the accompaniment of Mantovani's cascading strings, French is ably backed by Bill Paterson, Timothy Spall and Stephen Frost. Add a running gag about the Fairy Liquid queue, Nanette Newman, and the series is off to a cracking start.
9.30 40 Minutes: Berlin Lights
 ● CHOICE: Straying somewhat into *Panorama* territory, Peter Dale's film presents yet another story from Germany of post-unification disillusionment. The subject is the Nerva lightbulb factory in east Berlin. Once it lit up most of the eastern bloc but with the collapse of communism it lost its huge export markets and was forced to compete in a market economy. By the beginning of this year Nerva was almost bankrupt. A rescue plan involved cutting the workforce by nearly two-thirds. Dale personifies the Nerva story through Michael Müller, leader of the workers' council who has to put through the redundancies, and Rose Voss, a single mother of three whose job is on the line. With empty order books and no cashflow, it looks as if Nerva will be sold to a property speculator likely to close the factory and redevelop the site. Perhaps there will be something to be said for German Democratic Republic after all. (Ceefax)
10.10 Cartoon TV. An appreciation of yellow.
10.30 Newsnight presented by Sue Cameron.
11.15 The Late Show. Stephen Bayley looks at the concept of taste (s).
11.55 Behind the Headlines (r) **12.25am Weather**

6.00 TV-am
9.25 Jeopardy! Back to front quiz game with Steve Jones. **9.55 Thames News** and weather.
10.00 The Time... The Place... Topical subject under discussion with host Mike Scott.
10.40 This Morning. Family magazine series presented this week by Derek Jameson and his wife Ellen.
12.10 The Riddlers. Puppets show for young viewers (r).
12.30 News with John Sichel (Oracle). **1.10 Thames News** and weather.
1.20 Home and Away. Family soap from Australia. **1.50 A Country Practice**. Drama from the doctors in the Australia outback.
2.20 TV Weekly. A look behind the scenes of TV and C2 programmes.
2.30 Talkabout. Word game show.
3.15 ITN News headlines. **3.20 Thames News** headlines. **3.25 The Young Doctors**. Medical drama series.
3.55 Children's ITV introduced by Tammy Boyd beginning with *Captain Zed* and the *Zee Zone*. Cartoon series. **4.20 Mike and Angelo**. Rita's mummy reveals her secret past. **4.45 Go Wild**. The environmental series this week tackles the subject of water and lakes.
5.10 Thames Action Viewers' Index or consumer issues.
5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong.
5.55 Thames Medical Special. Reports on the work of the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust.
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Oracle). **6.30 Thames News** (Oracle).
7.00 Emmerdale. Rural soap from Yorkshire.
7.30 Voyager - The World of National Geographic. The Wildlife Detectives. The London-based Environmental Investigation Agency uncovers cruelty to wildlife.



Loose Ends: Christopher Ellison as DI Burnside (6.00pm)

8.00 The Bill: Turning Back the Clock. Burnside decides to tie up a few loose ends when an old acquaintance is released from prison, but the unorthodox talking operation causes teething troubles for Carter and Lums.
8.30 This Week: Deadly Business. Hundreds test their lives in recent disasters such as Zeebrugge, Chagrin and Piper Alpha, yet no one was convicted. Are the courts protecting those guilty of the crime of corporate manslaughter?
9.00 Minder: The Odds Couple. Arthur's loyalties are divided when he tangles a fighter with his friend's gambling-mad wife. With George Cole and Sally Knyvette (Oracle).
10.00 News at Ten with Julia Semple and Arstar Stewart (Oracle).
10.30 Thames News and weather.
10.40 The City Programme presented by Steve Clarke and Danielle Donoghue. Does this year's record 23 million mortgage redemptions threaten the solvency of British insurers?
11.10 O1. The London arts and entertainment guide includes an interview with Mike Piggis, news from the London Film Festival, and reviews of Robert Leggat's new play *Dragon's Trilogy*.
11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H. Cuff Australian snoop follows the lives of women prisoners in cardboard cells.
12.30am Contacts. Televised lonely hearts introduced by Suzy Smith and Michael McNulty.
1.00 The Concert. Frasier Chorus and Candyland at the Town and Country Club, Kilmish.
2.00 Film: Dragon Rapide (1956). Spanish/Italian documentary-style film charting the rise of General Franco before the outbreak of the Spanish civil war. Stars Juan Diego as the general and Victoria Pena as his wife. Directed by Jaime Camino.
4.00 The Twilight Zone: Stranger in Possum Meadows. Mother and daughter under threat from a mysterious stranger.
4.30 America's Top Ten (r) **5.00 Videothon**.
5.30 ITN Morning News with Anne Leathers. Ends at 6.00.

6.00 The Channel 4 Daily
9.25 Schools
12.00 The Parliament Programme. Today's events from the Lords and the Commons.
12.30 Business Daily. Suzanne Simons presents financial news and stock exchange reports.
1.00 Sesame Street. Letters and numbers for the very young.
2.00 Film: A Thousand and One Nights (1945). Colourful and lively Arabian Nights spoof from The Jordan Story. Director Alfred E. Green, featuring a pre-Bikini performance from Phil Spector. Also starring Cornel Wilde as Aladdin and Evelyn Keyes as the genie of the lamp.
3.45 The Stork Club. Scherzerade tale animated by Lotte Reiniger.
4.00 A Brush with Art: Washes and Colours. *Alvin Craxhaw* teaches the techniques of mixing colours and the basic principles of painting in watercolour.
4.30 Fifteen to One. Rapid fire general knowledge quiz presented by William G. Stewart.
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Family Secrets. Actress Suzanne Somers joins her entire family to discuss the effects of their father's alcoholism.
5.55 Willo the Wisp. Adventures in the magical forest.
6.00 The Time Tunnel: Attack of the Barbarians. Time warped scientists land in the midst of a battle between the Mongol hordes of Genghis and Kubla Khan. Trouble comes when Tony falls for Kubla's beautiful daughter Saru.
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Zohar Badani (Teletext).
7.50 Comment. A guest speaker presents a personal opinion on a topical issue.
8.00 Free for All. First in a new series of the viewer-controlled news programme which tries to tell the stories overlooked by other current events slots. Tonight's format minor Tony Thurston complains that the government's intransigence has led to EC money intended to regenerate mining regions being blocked, and Tony Lums of Siskin, a host of photos for Britain's 10,000 pit bull terriers.
8.30 Bagdad Cafe: Sixteen Candles. Birthday time for Brenda and Debbie in the American desert, set in a rundown desert diner. Starring Whoopi Goldberg and Monica Calhoun.



Target of a wider political campaign? Jeremy Brichlin (8.00pm)

9.00 Secret History: The Hidden Hand
 ● CHOICE: Secret History is a documentary series which sets out to show new light on events of the past half century in a strong opener, Jeremy Brichlin, a political activist from Zimbabwe, looks into the motives behind the car bomb attack which nearly killed him in Harare in 1987. The trail leads him to the perpetrators, now in prison. They admit little but Brichlin is convinced they were part of a campaign by South Africa to undermine and overthrow black governments. Brichlin reveals that chemical and biological weapons were used during the 'dirty war' against blacks during the struggle for Rhodesian independence and claims that white Rhodesian forces advanced to South Africa to carry on the fight from there. The film is particularly explicit about South Africa's support, in arms and money, for the apartheid army in Mozambique.
10.00 Drop the Dead Donkey. Bad news for Christmas, when smiling Sally Smedley gets religion in this week's episode of the fast and punchy newsroom comedy.
10.30 Love Talk: Sam's Story - Jealous Love Suspects and arguments threaten Richard and Sam's relationship. They join an intimate television discussion addressing the perennial questions - is jealousy an inevitable part of love, and does anyone want to be involved with a partner who doesn't care enough to be jealous?
11.00 LA Law: Rohmer vs Greindler. Abby struggles on with the Rohmer case, while breaks-ups, personal traumas and anti-Semitism worry her colleagues in the busy Californian law practice.
11.55 A Week in Politics - Laine Belling, includes a discussion on why the parties, intent on gaining the female vote, are concentrating only on winning the vote of professional middle class women. Ends at 1.25am.

TV VARIATIONS
ANGLO
 As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away. 6.30-7.00 *Anglia News*. 10.40 *Anglia Tonight*. 11.30 *Weekend*. 12.01-1.00 *Phoenix* or *Cel* Block H.
BORDER
 As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away. 6.30-7.00 *Borderline*. 10.40 *7th Heaven*. 11.10 *Phoenix*. *Cel* Block H. 12.01-1.00 *Phoenix*. 1.50 *Anglia*. 2.30 *Phoenix*. 2.45 *Up the Junction*. 3.30 *Film*. *Fin* and *Joe* 5.30-5.40 *Joe*.
CENTRAL
 As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 *Stocks*. 6.30-7.00 *Central News*. 6.55-7.00 *Palace*. 7.30-8.00 *1st Night*. 10.40 *Film*. *My Mother's Secret*. 11.10 *Phoenix*. *Cel* Block H. 12.01-1.00 *Phoenix*. 1.50 *Anglia*. 2.30 *Phoenix*. 2.45 *Up the Junction*. 3.30 *Film*. *Fin* and *Joe* 5.30-5.40 *Joe*.
GRANADA
 As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 *Stocks*. 6.30-7.00 *Granada News*. 6.55-7.00 *Palace*. 7.30-8.00 *Granada*. 10.40 *Film*. *My Mother's Secret*. 11.10 *Phoenix*. *Cel* Block H. 12.01-1.00 *Phoenix*. 1.50 *Anglia*. 2.30 *Phoenix*. 2.45 *Up the Junction*. 3.30 *Film*. *Fin* and *Joe* 5.30-5.40 *Joe*.

TVS
 As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 *Stocks*. 6.30-7.00 *TVS News*. 6.55-7.00 *Palace*. 7.30-8.00 *TVS*. 10.40 *Film*. *My Mother's Secret*. 11.10 *Phoenix*. *Cel* Block H. 12.01-1.00 *Phoenix*. 1.50 *Anglia*. 2.30 *Phoenix*. 2.45 *Up the Junction*. 3.30 *Film*. *Fin* and *Joe* 5.30-5.40 *Joe*.

RADIO 1
6.55am Weather: News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert Mozart (Overture, Lupo Sisti, Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields under Neville Martin). Mozart, transac Bassini (Serenade, Don Giovanni, Leslie Howard, piano). Stenhammar (Two Sentimental Romances, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra under Westerberg, with Anne Teitelsen, violin).
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont.) Greg (Overture, Lupo Sisti, Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields under Neville Martin). Mozart, transac Bassini (Serenade, Don Giovanni, Leslie Howard, piano). Stenhammar (Two Sentimental Romances, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra under Westerberg, with Anne Teitelsen, violin).
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the Week Elgar: Pomp and Circumstance March No 4 in G (London Philharmonic Orchestra under Boult). Liza: The Damask Rose, Queen Mary's Song, A Song of Autumn (Benjamin Britten, baritone, David Wilson, piano). Piano Quintet in A minor, Op 84 (Allan Schiller, Coud Quartet).
9.35 Henry the Lion: Capella Agostino Steffani under Lajos Rovalkay performs a sequence of Baroque music, with excerpts from Agostino Steffani's opera *Enrico Leone* with Ralf Popken, alto, as Enrico, Monika Frittmeyer, soprano, and soprano, Carole Dux, alto, as Almaro. The acts are separated by concertos from Corelli's Op 6, performed by the English Chamber Orchestra under Gornther Herbig. Under Gornther Herbig performs Haydn (Symphony No 5 in A) Mahler (Symphony No 5) (r).
1.00pm News
1.05 Birmingham Lunchtime Concert Live from Radio One. Pabst: Maria Vanya, Milanovic, violin. Andrew Ball, piano, perform Schumann (Sonata No 3 in A minor). Barok (Sonata No 1).

TYNE TEES
 As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away. 6.30-7.00 *Tyne Tees News*. 10.40 *Tyne Tees Tonight*. 11.30 *Weekend*. 12.01-1.00 *Phoenix*. 1.50 *Anglia*. 2.30 *Phoenix*. 2.45 *Up the Junction*. 3.30 *Film*. *Fin* and *Joe* 5.30-5.40 *Joe*.
ULSTER
 As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away. 6.30-7.00 *Ulster News*. 10.40 *Ulster Tonight*. 11.30 *Weekend*. 12.01-1.00 *Phoenix*. 1.50 *Anglia*. 2.30 *Phoenix*. 2.45 *Up the Junction*. 3.30 *Film*. *Fin* and *Joe* 5.30-5.40 *Joe*.
YORKSHIRE
 As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away. 6.30-7.00 *Yorkshire News*. 10.40 *Yorkshire Tonight*. 11.30 *Weekend*. 12.01-1.00 *Phoenix*. 1.50 *Anglia*. 2.30 *Phoenix*. 2.45 *Up the Junction*. 3.30 *Film*. *Fin* and *Joe* 5.30-5.40 *Joe*.

RADIO 4
6.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing, incl 6.03 Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day (r) 6.30 Today, incl 6.30-6.35 7.30-8.00, 9.30 News 6.55 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sport 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 News 9.05 Punters
9.45 As Others See Us: Foreigners express their views about Britain. The Kurdish journalist Hazihi Temouneh explores the limits of tolerance in British society (2 of 2).
10.00-10.30am Liza and Audiotape (FM only): Hello, Goodbye. The third of a six-part comedy series by Simon Barker (s).
10.30 News: An Act of Worship (LW only).
10.35 The Bible (LW only): Joshua. Read by Leo McKern (1 of 4).
10.35 Women's Hour looks at Third World debt, talks to the cartoonist, Jacky Fleming and meets the founder of Weight Watchers, Bernice Weston.
11.30 News: Our Own Correspondent.
12.00 News: You and Yours.
12.25pm Third Test Match (s) (r).
1.35 Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping 2.00 News: Dollar Prices.
Katherine Parker's real life at the turn of the century, traces the marriage of convenience between the heiress Constance Vanderbilt and the Duke of Marlborough. During her years at Blenheim Palace, Constance never forgot the American lower left behind. With Shelley Thompson (s).
3.00 Down Your Way (FM only) (r).
3.40-4.00 Poetry Reading (FM only). Simon Rae is at the Cardiff Literature Festival (s).
3.00 News: Prime Minister's Questions (LW only).
4.05 Kaleidoscope reviews the Canadian director Robert LaPage's *Dragon Trilogy* at the Riverside Studios, and the Hokusai exhibition at the Royal Academy. Billy Roche talks about his new play, *Betty*, at the Bush Theatre (s).
FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 105.3MHz/285m 108.9Hz/275m FM 87.6 99.8 Radio 2: 88.0Hz/433m 90.8Hz/330m FM 89.9 92.4 Radio 3: 154.5Hz/247m FM 92.4 94.4 Radio 4: 158.4Hz/1515m FM 92.4 94.4 Radio 5: 158.4Hz/1515m FM 92.4 94.4 Radio 5: 158.4Hz/1515m FM 92.4 94.4 Radio 5: 158.4Hz/1515m FM 92.4 94.4

SATELLITE
SKY ONE
 6.00am The DJ Jay Jay 8.40 *Mr. T* 9.00 *Mr. T* 9.30 *Mr. T* 10.00 *Mr. T* 10.30 *Mr. T* 11.00 *Mr. T* 11.30 *Mr. T* 12.00 *Mr. T* 12.30 *Mr. T* 1.00 *Mr. T* 1.30 *Mr. T* 2.00 *Mr. T* 2.30 *Mr. T* 3.00 *Mr. T* 3.30 *Mr. T* 4.00 *Mr. T* 4.30 *Mr. T* 5.00 *Mr. T* 5.30 *Mr. T* 6.00 *Mr. T* 6.30 *Mr. T* 7.00 *Mr. T* 7.30 *Mr. T* 8.00 *Mr. T* 8.30 *Mr. T* 9.00 *Mr. T* 9.30 *Mr. T* 10.00 *Mr. T* 10.30 *Mr. T* 11.00 *Mr. T* 11.30 *Mr. T* 12.00 *Mr. T* 12.30 *Mr. T* 1.00 *Mr. T* 1.30 *Mr. T* 2.00 *Mr. T* 2.30 *Mr. T* 3.00 *Mr. T* 3.30 *Mr. T* 4.00 *Mr. T* 4.30 *Mr. T* 5.00 *Mr. T* 5.30 *Mr. T* 6.00 *Mr. T* 6.30 *Mr. T* 7.00 *Mr. T* 7.30 *Mr. T* 8.00 *Mr. T* 8.30 *Mr. T* 9.00 *Mr. T* 9.30 *Mr. T* 10.00 *Mr. T* 10.30 *Mr. T* 11.00 *Mr. T* 11.30 *Mr. T* 12.00 *Mr. T* 12.30 *Mr. T* 1.00 *Mr. T* 1.30 *Mr. T* 2.00 *Mr. T* 2.30 *Mr. T* 3.00 *Mr. T* 3.30 *Mr. T* 4.00 *Mr. T* 4.30 *Mr. T* 5.00 *Mr. T* 5.30 *Mr. T* 6.00 *Mr. T* 6.30 *Mr. T* 7.00 *Mr. T* 7.30 *Mr. T* 8.00 *Mr. T* 8.30 *Mr. T* 9.00 *Mr. T* 9.30 *Mr. T* 10.00 *Mr. T* 10.30 *Mr. T* 11.00 *Mr. T* 11.30 *Mr. T* 12.00 *Mr. T* 12.30 *Mr. T* 1.00 *Mr. T* 1.30 *Mr. T* 2.00 *Mr. T* 2.30 *Mr. T* 3.00 *Mr. T* 3.30 *Mr. T* 4.00 *Mr. T* 4.30 *Mr. T* 5.00 *Mr. T* 5.30 *Mr. T* 6.00 *Mr. T* 6.30 *Mr. T* 7.00 *Mr. T* 7.30 *Mr. T* 8.00 *Mr. T* 8.30 *Mr. T* 9.00 *Mr. T* 9.30 *Mr. T* 10.00 *Mr. T* 10.30 *Mr. T* 11.00 *Mr. T* 11.30 *Mr. T* 12.00 *Mr. T* 12.30 *Mr. T* 1.00 *Mr. T* 1.30 *Mr. T* 2.00 *Mr. T* 2.30 *Mr. T* 3.00 *Mr. T* 3.30 *Mr. T* 4.00 *Mr. T* 4.30 *Mr. T* 5.00 *Mr. T* 5.30 *Mr. T* 6.00 *Mr. T* 6.30 *Mr. T* 7.00 *Mr. T* 7.30 *Mr. T* 8.00 *Mr. T* 8.30 *Mr. T* 9.00 *Mr. T* 9.30 *Mr. T* 10.00 *Mr. T* 10.30 *Mr. T* 11.00 *Mr. T* 11.30 *Mr. T* 12.00 *Mr. T* 12.30 *Mr. T* 1.00 *Mr. T* 1.30 *Mr. T* 2.00 *Mr. T* 2.30 *Mr. T* 3.00 *Mr. T* 3.30 *Mr. T* 4.00 *Mr. T* 4.30 *Mr. T* 5.00 *Mr. T* 5.30 *Mr. T* 6.00 *Mr. T* 6.30 *Mr. T* 7.00 *Mr. T* 7.30 *Mr. T* 8.00 *Mr. T* 8.30 *Mr. T* 9.00 *Mr. T* 9.30 *Mr. T* 10.00 *Mr. T* 10.30 *Mr. T* 11.00 *Mr. T* 11.30 *Mr. T* 12.00 *Mr. T* 12.30 *Mr. T* 1.00 *Mr. T* 1.30 *Mr. T* 2.00 *Mr. T* 2.30 *Mr. T* 3.00 *Mr. T* 3.30 *Mr. T* 4.00 *Mr. T* 4.30 *Mr. T* 5.00 *Mr. T* 5.30 *Mr. T* 6.00 *Mr. T* 6.30 *Mr. T* 7.00 *Mr. T* 7.30 *Mr. T* 8.00 *Mr. T* 8.30 *Mr. T* 9.00 *Mr. T* 9.30 *Mr. T* 10.00 *Mr. T* 10.30 *Mr. T* 11.00 *Mr. T* 11.30 *Mr. T* 12.00 *Mr. T* 12.30 *Mr. T* 1.00 *Mr. T* 1.30 *Mr. T* 2.00 *Mr. T* 2.30 *Mr. T* 3.00 *Mr. T* 3.30 *Mr. T* 4.00 *Mr. T* 4.30 *Mr. T* 5.00 *Mr. T* 5.30 *Mr. T* 6.00 *Mr. T* 6.30 *Mr. T* 7.00 *Mr. T* 7.30 *Mr. T* 8.00 *Mr. T* 8.30 *Mr. T* 9.00 *Mr. T* 9.30 *Mr. T* 10.00 *Mr. T* 10.30 *Mr. T* 11.00 *Mr. T* 11.30 *Mr. T* 12.00 *Mr. T* 12.30 *Mr. T* 1.00 *Mr. T* 1.30 *Mr. T* 2.00 *Mr. T* 2.30 *Mr. T* 3.00 *Mr. T* 3.30 *Mr. T* 4.00 *Mr. T* 4.30 *Mr. T* 5.00 *Mr. T* 5.30 *Mr. T* 6.00 *Mr. T* 6.30 *Mr. T* 7.00 *Mr. T* 7.30 *Mr. T* 8.00 *Mr. T* 8.30 *Mr. T* 9.00 *Mr. T* 9.30 *Mr. T* 10.00 *Mr. T* 10.30 *Mr. T* 11.00 *Mr. T* 11.30 *Mr. T* 12.00 *Mr. T* 12.30 *Mr. T* 1.00 *Mr. T* 1.30 *Mr. T* 2.00 *Mr. T* 2.30 *Mr. T* 3.00 *Mr. T* 3.30 *Mr. T* 4.00 *Mr. T* 4.30 *Mr. T* 5.00 *Mr. T* 5.30 *Mr. T* 6.00 *Mr. T* 6.30 *Mr. T* 7.00 *Mr. T* 7.30 *Mr. T* 8.00 *Mr. T* 8.30 *Mr. T* 9.00 *Mr. T* 9.30 *Mr. T* 10.00 *Mr. T* 10.30 *Mr. T* 11.00 *Mr. T* 11.30 *Mr. T* 12.00 *Mr. T* 12.30 *Mr. T* 1.00 *Mr. T* 1.30 *Mr. T* 2.00 *Mr. T* 2.30 *Mr. T* 3.00 *Mr. T* 3.30 *Mr. T* 4.00 *Mr. T* 4.30 *Mr. T* 5.00 *Mr. T* 5.30 *Mr. T* 6.00 *Mr. T* 6.30 *Mr. T* 7.00 *Mr. T* 7.30 *Mr. T* 8.00 *Mr. T* 8.30 *Mr. T* 9.00 *Mr. T* 9.30 *Mr. T* 10.00 *Mr. T* 10.30 *Mr. T* 11.00 *Mr. T* 11.30 *Mr. T* 12.00 *Mr. T* 12.30 *Mr. T* 1.00 *Mr. T* 1.30 *Mr. T*

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 14 1991

TODAY IN BUSINESS

JOB LOT

The unemployment figure announced by Michael Howard may be more than 2.5 million today. Solutions are pouring in thick and fast. Page 29

JOINING IN

Sainsbury, Tesco, Asda and Argill all did it. Now William Morrison, the North of England supermarket group, is doing it - going to its shareholders for extra cash. Page 27

BRIGHTER

David Goldstone, chairman of Regalian Properties, said he was surprised by the strength of sales in London's residential property market. Page 26

QUALITY DAY

Today is World Quality Day. Suppliers of goods and services are supposed to examine how they are satisfying their customers. Focus on Quality Assurance. Page 33-36

DELA VU

Sir Adrian Cusbury quoted from a 1937 speech on corporate governance yesterday. Nothing much has changed in the way companies are run. Page 29

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7730 (-0.0020)
German mark 2.9006 (+0.0003)
Exchange index 91.2 (up 0.1)
Bank of England official base rate (4 1/4%)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share 1956.4 (-25.5)
FT-SE 100 2546.5 (-29.0)
New York Dow Jones 3039.36 (-14.75)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 24416.23 (-251.50)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10 1/2%
3 month interbank 10 1/4-10 3/4%
3 month eligible bills 10 3/4-11%
US: Prime Rate 7 1/4%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3 month Treasury bills 4 5/8-4 61%
30 year bonds 10 1/2-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £ \$1.7725
€ \$1.7725
Sfr \$1.4525
FF \$1.5585
Yen \$1.3008
Index 63.5
SDR 778530
ECU 1.18946
SDR 1.284472
London forex market close

GOLD

London: 355.45 pm 356.55
Close: 356.50-357.00 (201 20:20:70)
New York: 356.75-357.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) \$21.50 bbl (\$21.25)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 134.6 September (1987=100)
*Denotes midday trading price

North Sea output boosts poor figures

Manufacturing stagnant in third quarter

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MANUFACTURING industry remained stagnant in the third quarter, according to the latest official figures, but higher North Sea output probably boosted overall industrial production sufficiently to produce a technical end to recession.

The third-quarter rise of 1.1 per cent in industrial production, which combines manufacturing and energy output, was entirely attributed to offshore oil and gas production returning to normal levels after a long period of disruption. Energy output rose 4 per cent in the third quarter.

Confirmation that the whole economy started to grow again, albeit very slightly, last quarter, is expected to come in government figures on gross domestic product next Tuesday. City forecasts centre on a rise of 0.4 per cent.

The Treasury expressed disappointment over the absence

of any sign of pick-up in yesterday's data. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, forecast in his autumn statement last week that GDP would grow 0.75 per cent in the second half of this year.

Despite repeated survey findings that point to a recovery in business confidence, there is little evidence that it is being translated into activity. Manufacturing output was unchanged between the second and third quarters. The chemicals sector was the only one to show any substantial growth. Compared with the third quarter last year, manufacturing output was down 5.3 per cent.

The Central Statistical Office estimates that the underlying trend for manufacturing still shows output declining at 2 per cent a year. Their estimate for overall industrial output, which accounts for about a third of GDP, shows production declining at an annual 1.5 per cent, half a point worse than the estimate issued last month. In September, industrial output rose 0.8 per cent, more than reversing the revised 1.8 per cent drop in August, but remained 1.7 per cent below the level of September last year. Manufacturing remained flat in September, after a fall of 1.2 per cent, revised up from 1.1 per cent.

Engineering was the worst performing sector in the third quarter. Output was 1.6 per cent lower than in the second quarter. Metals and textiles were also badly hit, while production in the motor industry was erratic.

Having flattened out in the second quarter after four quarters of recession, the index of manufacturing output was stuck at 112.5 in the third quarter, about 6.5 per cent below where it had been before the recession. This is less than half the decline seen in the recession of the early Eighties.

Gordon Brown, shadow trade and industry spokesman, said yesterday's figures confirmed Britain's position at the bottom of the industrial growth and investment league. "Most worrying for the prospects of sustainable investment-led recovery is the continued fall in output in investment goods."

Michael Saunders, economist at Salomon Brothers, expects non-oil GDP to remain flat in the third quarter. Other City economists highlighted the failure of car output to rebound after the fall of August.

Motor vehicles and parts showed a 3 per cent decline between the second and third quarters.

London appeared to be alerted early to the fact that the latest American producer prices would make disappointing reading. Market-makers marked prices sharply lower in London, and an opening fall of 14 points in the Dow Jones industrial average saw the FT-SE 100 index close near its low of the day, down 29.0 points at 2,546.5.

The core rate for wholesale prices, which excludes energy and food, was 0.5 per cent up in October. This compared with an unchanged figure for September.

Economists are growing increasingly concerned about the possibility of America experiencing a double-dip recession, with activity starting to shrink again in the final quarter. This would follow

Prices surge catches America by surprise

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN wholesale prices jumped 0.7 per cent in October, the biggest monthly rise for a year, as prices surged ahead on a broad front, according to official government figures.

The rise was much larger than Wall Street had expected and brought to an end a long run of government figures pointing to inflation slowing down. Although one month's figures do not necessarily indicate a change of trend, the October increase in producer prices is likely to discourage the Federal Reserve Board from any early cut in interest rates.

Economists are growing increasingly concerned about the possibility of America experiencing a double-dip recession, with activity starting to shrink again in the final quarter. This would follow

substantial recovery seen in the third quarter.

The Bush administration is keen to see the recovery firmly established in time for next year's presidential election. The administration said yesterday that it was close to agreement with Congress leaders that would increase benefits to America's unemployed, a move that could provide a boost to consumer demand.

The sharp rise in the producer price index in October, which followed rises of 0.2 per cent in August and 0.1 per cent in September, was considerably above the 0.1 per cent increase that the forecasters had focused on.

The core rate for wholesale prices, which excludes energy and food, was 0.5 per cent up in October. This compared with an unchanged figure for September.

CBI hopes, page 26
Markets, page 28
Comment, page 29
Jobless trend, page 29

Ratners shares slide again

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE shares of Ratners, the high street jeweller, have fallen further after a City profits downgrade as Gerald Ratner, its chairman, announced he was relinquishing a non-executive directorship elsewhere because of pressure of work.

Ratners' shares fell 8p to 49p on the downgrade from Nomura Research Institute. Nomura has cut its forecast from £65 million to £40 million for the year to end-January, in line with a similar cut from Goldman Sachs, another overseas securities house, on Monday. The market is increasingly concerned about Ratner's long-term survival, although sources close to the company say existing financing facilities are more than enough to cover immediate commitments.

Ratners shares are always a nervous market in the run-up to Christmas, analysts say, and how much shoppers will spend in the group's stores is crucial to this year's financial performance. The group has pledged itself not to comment on Christmas sales until after the holiday, when it will give a full breakdown.

Mr Ratner is standing down

as a director of Norweb, the Northwest electricity distributor privatised last year. He has only held the post since March, having replaced another retail star who has fallen from grace, Philip Birch, formerly chairman of Ward White.

Since that time, the Ratners share price has slumped from about 190p to its present level and Mr Ratner has become embroiled in a controversy over remarks about his own products.

The share price has more than halved over the past two months.

NatWest versus Victor Kiam

Man who bought the team sued

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

LIFE has become more than just a close shave for Victor Kiam, the man who liked Remington electric shavers so much, he bought the company.

National Westminster Bank USA yesterday filed legal action against the smooth-jawed, once considered among America's heroes of entrepreneurial spirit, alleging breach of contract.

At the centre of his current troubles is the worst performing American football team for almost three years - the New England Patriots, which lost 15 out of 16 games last year. The Patriots are losing fans and are up to \$45 million in debt.

Mr Kiam rushed to buy them three years ago, outbid-



Kiam: troubles all round

ding Donald Trump, the de-throned property king, and Marvin Davis, the 300lb Los Angeles show business investor. Mr Kiam paid \$80 million for the team, putting up \$20 million himself. But the Patriots had already been promised to Francis Murray as part of a repayment for money he had lent to the

team's previous owners. A deal was struck. The two men would own the team together, and Mr Kiam would buy out Mr Murray's 49 per cent stake for a guaranteed \$38 million.

Mr Kiam, whose management buyout of Remington a decade ago was considered among the most successful, should have paid up on Tuesday, but he did not.

His synergy for the Patriots deal never came off. He thought the players would endorse Remington shavers, which would help sales and, in turn, attract fans to the games lifting tickets sales and TV fees which would put the team back in the black.

Instead, after the failure of two new products, sales of the private Remington company slumped 20 per cent last year to \$200 million, and Patriot ticket sales fell, losing the team \$4 million a season. Mr

BT sale pitched to raise £5bn

By MARTIN WALLER

THE government launched the last big privatisation before the general election, calling for a £110 minimum first payment on British Telecom shares from small shareholders in a pathfinder prospectus hedged with "wealth warnings."

The retail offer will give the public an expected 10p to 20p discount to the price financial institutions will pay, and all investors will also get the 5.8p a share interim dividend already announced.

So far, five million people have registered to buy the shares and will have to pay 110p a share in the first instalment on the 100 share minimum investment permitted in the retail offer. The second instalment is set at 120p, payable by next July, but the size of the third, in March 1993, will depend on the institutional tender offer.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, did not say if the government thought BT shares were suitable for the unsophisticated investor. He did say: "Share ownership is the vital link between enterprise and thrift, the very founding of a capitalist society." The pathfinder gave warning, however, that "with growing competition and regulatory pressure, BT's future is inevitably more uncertain."

A note from Sir Bryan Carsberg, the industry regulator, refers to the forthcoming price review, governing the period beyond July 1993, and says investors should not assume he would necessarily reach similar conclusions to previous reviews.

The government expects to sell about 1.35 billion shares, worth £5 billion at yesterday's closing price of 373p, but if there is substantial demand it may increase that to 1.575 billion shares, to raise £6 billion. Half the shares are destined for British retail investors, but Mr Lamont said, "we are prepared to increase that proportion to about two thirds if demand is strong."

As a loyalty bonus, retail investors who register with the BT Share Information Office can opt for a discount on the offer price, split between second and third instalments, or additional shares.

The institutional offer will be shared between ten financial markets around the world. But Lord Cairns, chief executive of SG Warburg Group that is handling the sale, said he expected "a very significant proportion" of the shares would go to institutions.

Comment, page 29



Telephone selling: Norman Lamont, yesterday, with Iain Vallance, BT's chairman

Pressure on British Gas

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Gas is expected to name a new finance director within a week. The appointment of an external candidate to replace Allan Sutcliffe, who retired six weeks ago, will coincide with internal pressure to improve the company's image.

Non-executive directors of British Gas have become increasingly concerned about the company's failure to respond effectively to attacks by James McKinnon, the director general of gas supply, on its monopoly and profitability.

"There are important issues here of safety and security of supply," one said. "This company has to change its attitude to the media and make sure it gets its message across."

The director contrasted the quick and robust response of electricity generators to complaints about charges, detailed in yesterday's *Times*, with British Gas's failure to correct calculations that it makes profits averaging £65 a year from its 17.3 million domestic customers.

Yesterday, British Gas provided the first breakdown of tariff market profitability. The company said it made £35 to £40 last year from a three-bedroom house with gas-fired central heating and hot water.

Since assets employed in supplying homes averaged £1,000 per household, the rate

of return was 3.5 to 4.5 per cent, below the 5 to 7 per cent deemed appropriate by the regulator.

However, the figures suggest that plans by Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, to reduce the threshold for competition from 25,000 to 10,000 a year to 2,500 pose a greater threat to British Gas's profitability than is generally realised.

A British Gas spokesman

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FKI 49% decline prompts payout cut

By MARTIN BARROW

FKI, the engineering group, has halved its interim dividend after suffering a 49 per cent fall in profits in the six months to the end of September.

The company, separated from Babcock International two years ago, also announced the resignation of Norman Scouler as chief executive for "personal family reasons." He will be succeeded by Bob Beeston, presently managing director of BTR's valve group, on January 1.

The interim dividend is cut from 2p to 1p but Jeff Whalley, the chairman, moved swiftly to reassure shareholders about the company's prospects by promising to maintain the final dividend.

FKI has arranged a \$120 million private debt placement with American institutions to secure core borrowing requirements through to the end of the decade.

Mr Whalley said: "While trading conditions, particularly in the UK, continue to be difficult I believe the measures we have taken to reduce our cost base and balance sheet gearing leave FKI well positioned for any economic upturn."

However, FKI shares fell from 58½ to 52p, despite the absence of a much-feared rights issue. The fall in the price occurred amid concern that the departure of Mr Scouler after two years would delay the restructuring and the disposals that were expected to take place after an eight-month strategic review of the company's British and American businesses.

Smith New Court, the investment house, now expects full-year profits for FKI to fall from £40.15 million to just £28 million, compared with earlier forecasts of £35 million.

Interim profits fell from £26.3 million before tax in the first half of the previous year to £13.5 million, a figure virtually unchanged from the previous six months. Earnings were 2.2p a share, down from 4.3p.

Tempus, page 28

Morrison calls for £97m to expand

By OUR CITY STAFF

Wm MORRISON Supermarkets, the North of England retail chain, has joined the flood of supermarket groups seeking cash from their shareholders to finance their expansion programmes. It is asking shareholders for £97.6 million to pay for new stores and to reduce debts.

The funds will be raised through a one-for-five rights issue, the company's first equity

fund-raising since its flotation in 1967, at 330p a share. However, some members of the Morrison family, which speaks for 47.6 per cent of the shares, say that they will not be taking up their rights on 39 per cent of the issue.

These shares will be placed with institutions. As a result the family holding will be diluted to 39 per cent, or 36 per cent after full conversion, said Ken Morrison, the chairman and managing director.

To sweeten the issue, the board is forecasting a final dividend of 1.5p a share payable on the higher capital, which will lift the total payment for the year from 1.55p to 1.9p a share.

Of the other supermarket groups, Tesco, J Sainsbury, Argill and Asda have all turned to their shareholders for cash this year, for funds totalling more than £1.8 billion.

Morrison currently operates 53 stores, and says that capital expenditure in the year ending February 1 will total £100 million. It is expected that a similar amount will be spent in the following two financial years. Meanwhile, net debt will be brought down from about \$5 per cent to just over 5 per cent.

Borrowings rose to a peak of £98 million last year but are expected to be down to between £20 million and £25 million by the year-end.

In September, Morrison announced that interim pre-tax profits for the period to August 3 had risen 23.7 per cent to £27 million on a turnover that was 22.8 per cent up at £332.9 million.

In the 12 weeks ended October 26, store takings have remained buoyant, the company says, and a 9.6 per cent increase in sales in existing stores has been achieved.

Mr Morrison said: "I am very encouraged by recent trading."

Morrison shares fell 12p to 267p.

Brixton issue

Brixton Estates has raised £38.6 million through the issue of a further £60 million tranche of mortgage debenture stock. The latest issue takes the total size of the original 23-year debenture issue to £120 million. It was placed by J Henry Schroder Wagg and priced at £96.588.

Payout held

Tomkinson, the Worcester-shire carpet manufacturer, is holding its final dividend at 8p a share, making an unchanged 11.5p for the year, after reporting pre-tax profits of £1.28 million (£1.58 million) on a turnover of £21.3 million (£24.3 million).

The group, of which Victor Watson is chairman, sells an estimated 300,000 Monopoly sets a year, and plans to launch various games for this Christmas.

The shares fell 6p to 197p.

Electrocomponents profits fall to £20m

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT

THE recession in Britain and start-up costs of electrical and electronic components operations in Germany and France during the half year to end September combined to hurt Electrocomponents, the international catalogue distributor group. Pre-tax profits fell from £24.7 million to £20.3 million on turnover down 3 per cent at £188 million.

Sir Keith Bright, the chairman, said trading in Britain was still depressed and there were no significant signs of an improvement yet. The interim dividend has, however, been raised by 5.6 per cent to 1.9p

per share from earnings of 6.3p (7.62p). Trade was particularly poor at Pact, a specialist subsidiary which supplies do-it-yourself retailers, and in electronic components. Sales at RS, the group's main electrical component distribution business, were flat. The British business is being expanded in two directions, however, with capacity being doubled at its distribution warehouse in Corby, Northamptonshire, and its range of mechanical engineering components being widened and put into a separate catalogue.



Game plan: Victor Watson, the chairman of John Waddington, will launch products in time for Christmas

Monopoly maker steady

By COLIN CAMPBELL

JOHN Waddington, the diversified packaging group still best known for Monopoly, Cluedo and two failed takeover bids by Robert Maxwell, made trading profits of £9.39 million for the 27 weeks to October 5, virtually unchanged on last time, despite the recession.

David Perry, the chief executive, said that while the company had done well, trading conditions would remain difficult. Pre-tax profits were £6.59 million (£8.02 million) on sales of £114.9 million (£114.1 million), and the interim dividend is held at 3.6p a share.

Mr Perry said there was £1.04 million of exceptional costs charged against first-half profits, made up of redundancy and relocation costs, offset by modest property profits, but that the benefits from the redundancy programme will be evident in the second half. This will come partly from a £15 million folding carton factory that has been on stream for several months.

Packaging interests represent 60 per cent of group sales, with games accounting for an estimated 11 per cent. Waddington prints stamps for 40 countries, including Britain, and undertakes other specialist security printing, but says that business in this field has been slow.

The group, of which Victor Watson is chairman, sells an estimated 300,000 Monopoly sets a year, and plans to launch various games for this Christmas.

The shares fell 6p to 197p.

Foster's factions reach a truce at board meeting

From BRIAN BUCHANAN IN SYDNEY

TWO factions on the board of Foster's Brewing averted a public brawl at the company's annual general meeting. At a board meeting just beforehand, the independent directors, led by Nobby Clark, the chairman, reached a compromise with John Elliott, the former chairman and chief of International Brewing Holdings. IBH is the biggest Foster's shareholder, with 38 per cent.

The second largest shareholder, Asahi, the Japanese brewer which has 19.9 per cent, played a key role in the truce by siding with the independent directors. As a result, IBH agreed to support the present board structure.

Mr Clark told more than 2,000 shareholders at the meeting in Melbourne that he had reached "an understanding" with Mr Elliott and IBH. "The Japanese way has prevailed and we have a meeting of minds," he said. It is

understood, however, that he had majority backing at the meeting, with proxy support amounting to 45.8 per cent.

Mr Clark said his talks with Mr Elliott, who is deputy chairman of Foster's, were "long, amicable and very frank". He added: "I'd like to thank John for his forbearance."

There was now "unanimity" between the independent directors and IBH. Shareholders showed their impatience with IBH's manoeuvring by forcing Geoff Lord, one of its nominees, to submit to a poll for re-election. Two independents and the two Asahi directors were re-elected on shows of hands.

The boardroom dispute developed over IBH's demand for a change of strategy at Foster's. The independent directors responded by threatening to resign if Mr Elliott were to win control at the annual meeting.

IBH, which has a heavy burden of debt, needs a swift rise in the Foster's share price and an increased dividend flow to avert possible receivership next year.

Mr Elliott told the meeting that Foster's was worth between Aus\$2.60 (£1.15) and Aus\$2.70 a share.

Mr Clark said the board planned to release an "interim report" to shareholders in the next three months. Dividends would be restored to normal levels. He pointed out that Foster's banking covenants allowed the company to pay 70 per cent of its profits in dividends.



Elliott: "forbearance"

Glazing directors on bail

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE former chairman and the former managing director of Therm-A-Stor, the collapsed double glazing company, were remanded on conditional bail at Peterborough magistrates court yesterday.

John Morris, aged 44, of Elstead, Surrey, and Anthony Bonnar, aged 39, of Manthorpe, Lincolnshire, were arrested on Tuesday and jointly charged with six counts of obtaining property by deception and three counts of fraudulent trading after a Serious Fraud Office and Cambridgeshire police enquiry. Mr Bonnar was also charged with an extra count of false accounting and two of publishing a false statement.

Mr Morris, the former chairman, was remanded on £250,000 bail and Mr Bonnar on £50,000. Both had to surrender passports, live at home and not contact former Therm-A-Stor staff.

LandSecs advances 8.8% at half time

By MATTHEW BOND

LAND Securities, Britain's biggest property company, has reported an 8.8 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £111.8 million in the six months to end-September.

Peter Hunt, chairman, cautiously echoed the comment of Richard Peskin, chairman of Great Portland Estates, who on Tuesday said he was seeing what appeared to be the first signs of recovery in parts of the central London market.

"We have noticed more enquiries about central London and that is often an early sign of recovery," said Mr Hunt, who announced an increased interim dividend of 6p (5.5p).

However, neither Land Securities nor Great Portland can be certain that the continuing slide in property values will have been halted by next March, the financial year end for both companies.

As normal, Land Securities has provided no indication of property values at the half-way stage, but it did draw attention to the properties secured against a £200 million debenture issued in September, where values had identified a 5 per cent fall in value since the year end. On Tuesday, Great Portland said that its debenture properties had fallen by 6.5 per cent since the year end.

Land Securities has spent about £45 million on property acquisitions in the interim period, including the £20 million purchase of the Coppergate shopping centre in York.

All but one of the company's latest acquisitions have been in retail, the property sector that many expect to emerge first from recession.

Mr Hunt said he expected direct property purchases would continue to be the preferred expansion route rather than corporate acquisition.

"We have looked at all the possible corporate acquisitions, but the consensus we have reached, so far, is that we are better off buying specific properties. But that does not mean that we're not continuing to look at corporate opportunities."

Tempus, page 28

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GREAT PORTLAND ESTATES

PROPERTY INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

INTERIM RESULTS FOR 1991

Unaudited	Half-year to 30.9.91 £'000	Half-year to 30.9.90 £'000	Year to 31.3.91 £'000
Income on ordinary activities before tax	17,523	17,153	33,767
Income on ordinary activities after tax	11,915	11,157	23,031
Earnings per share	5.6p	5.7p	11.5p
Dividend per share	3.4p	3.4p	10.0p

The results for the year ended 31.3.91 are abridged from the full accounts for that year, which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies and contain an unqualified audit report.

Good properties • Good financing • Good management
Great Portland

For a copy of the full Interim Report write to the Secretary,
Knighton House, 56 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8BD.

FKI has indicated that it will maintain the final dividend, which is of little consolation to shareholders.

Despite a relatively healthy balance sheet, the company is in worse shape than most feared, and the replacement of the chief executive from January 6 means that the much-needed restructuring is likely to be put on ice until next March or April at the earliest.

There are clearly large tranches of FKI that are unlikely to make decent returns, even after considerable write-downs. But Bob Beeston, recruited from BTR, will want time to make his own assessment, even though FKI has just completed its own eight-month review of the business.

An upturn in the economy might make next summer a more auspicious time to start unloading unwanted businesses. But in the interim, it is hard to see FKI, whose chairman is Jeff Whalley, doing much other than biding time until Mr Beeston takes the helm.

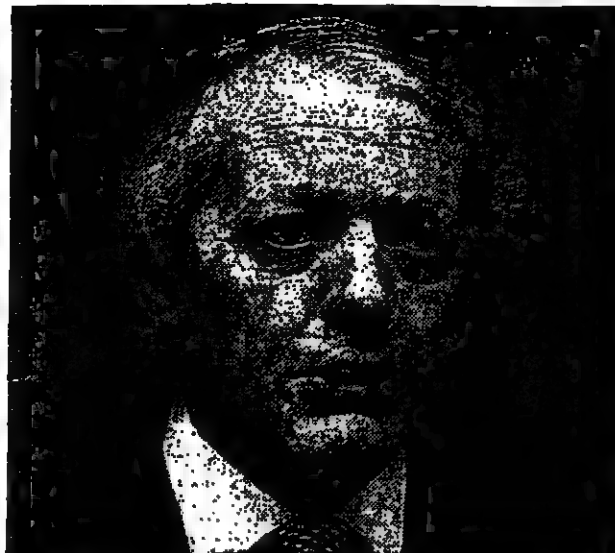
He clearly faces a big task. Close followers of the company acknowledge that Mr Beeston's forerunner, Norman Scouler, worked exceptionally hard to make sense of FKI's diverse engineering interests, particularly in America, which accounts for 50 per cent of turnover.

He hands over a company, however, that is still a long way from achieving the coherence that was the ultimate goal when FKI was demerged from Babcock more than two years ago.

Financially, FKI will emerge from the recession in reasonable shape. Borrowings have been reduced by £2 million to £75 million, taking gearing to 28 per cent, and a \$120 million private

Change at helm puts everything on hold at FKI

JAMES CALVERT-JONES



Maintaining faith Jeff Whalley, chairman of FKI

debt placement with American institutions with an average interest rate of 9.3 per cent secures core borrowing requirements until the end of the decade.

The combination of automation, transport and engineering businesses fails to excite investors. The extensive restructuring of recent times has had little perceptible impact on the company's ability to weather the recession, and with more changes looming on the horizon investors will be wise to wait on the sidelines.

With profits of £28 mil-

lion before tax expected this year, the shares trade on a multiple of 11.5 times expected earnings of 4.5p. They look vulnerable.

During the slump, Land Securities shone like a beacon. Its size, conservative management and the quality of its assets have made it the property stock to have. As a result, its shares have traded on a much narrower discount to net assets than most of its aspiring peers.

But with this premium rating continues as the stock market anticipates the property market's recovery that, in theory, should favour slightly less conservative management. Opinion is clearly divided. Shareholders could be forgiven for being confused.

Thankfully, Land Securities' management shows no sign of sharing in this confusion as it continues its unwavering pursuit of quality property. Pre-tax profits rose 8.8 per cent to £111.8 million in the six months to end-September with only a sharp and understandable fall in interest receivable cutting in a 13 per cent increase in net property income to £173 million.

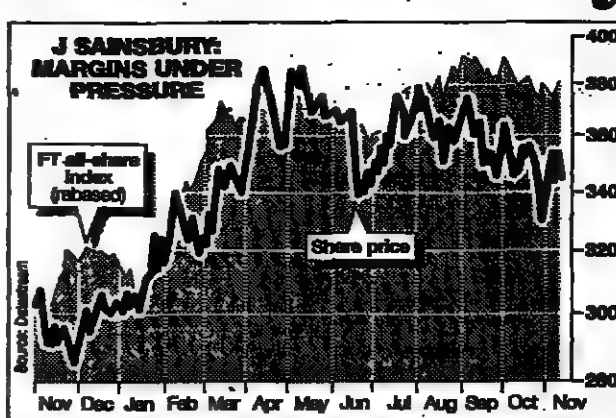
With all LandSec's borrowings at fixed rates, interest payable rose by just £1.1 million to £60.3 million. The net interest is covered an impressive three times. Borrowings will increase, but not very fast if acquisitions continue to come at the rate of £45 million every six months.

Gearing, too, will rise as net assets inevitably come under downward pressure, particularly from its London office investments. However, 35-40 per cent by the year end is hardly the stuff of nightmares. Land Securities remains solid both from an asset and dividend point of view. Only those with substantial holdings need look elsewhere.

Land Securities

THERE is no denying, from a corporate point of view, the pre-eminent quality of Land Securities, Britain's largest property company. But while this quality is irrefutable, there is some disagreement about whether Land Securities is the right stock to hold as and when

Speculators poised for expected Steetley bid



J Sainsbury's share price and margins over time

THE speculators believe that there will soon be a bid for Steetley, the building materials group that is based in Rugby, Warwickshire. A late burst of activity lifted the price 13p to 330p - a rise so far this week of 30p - as nearly 1 million shares changed hands.

The price has now risen 52p during the past ten days and, with pre-tax profits set to tumble from £8.2 million to £30 million this year, there is little evidence to suggest that Steetley's prospects have dramatically improved. Redland was tipped this week as a bidder, although this idea seems to be losing credence with Redland's price adding 10p to 510p. Lafarge, France's biggest cement producer, is also seen as a suitor, attracted by Steetley's big European network. Knauf, the German plasterboard maker, has also been mentioned.

Meanwhile, the rest of the equity market seemed to recover a warning that the American producers prices were unlikely to make plans, a sharp fall on Wall Street when trading began, went on the defensive in London, by marking prices sharply lower.

Selling turned out to be light and, by the close, only 452 million shares were traded. But an opening fall of 15 points in the Dow Jones industrial average left the FTSE 100 index closing near the day's low with a fall of 29.0 to

2,546.5. Government securities closed below their best, but still sported gains of 1/4p to the longer end.

British Telecom eased 3p to 373p as the government announced that the first instalment will be 110p a share, giving private investors a

discount of between 10 and 20 per cent on the price that institutions will pay.

SmithKline Beecham halved a fall of 16p to finish 8p cheaper at 810p as shops across the country withdrew 5 million bottles of Lucozade. The Anti-Terrorist Squad has

discovered a plot by animal rights campaigners to contaminate stocks.

The price was hit this week after a parcel of 1 million shares was dumped on the market.

Yesterday was another bad

heightened by the decision of Gerald Ratner, the chairman of Ratners, to resign from the board of Norwalk, the electricity distributor, down 5p at 273p.

William Morrison, the supermarket chain, fell 12p to 267p after announcing plans to raise £97.6 million by a rights issue. The group wants the money to finance its store opening programme and this follows fundraising exercises by Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury and Argill. The other supermarket chains all finished lower as the pressure on margins continued with Asda announcing a price freeze until Christmas. Asda eased 29p to 434p, Argill 6p to 280p, J Sainsbury 8p to 345p and Tesco 8p to 227p.

VSEL, the submarine maker, surged 26p to 465p on better than expected trading news, but FKI, the mechanical engineer, fell 6p to 52p - making a two-day loss of 12p - on the news that the company was halving its interim dividend.

Sisal, the subject of a bear raid on Monday, eased another 4p to 479p. The group is currently taking American fund managers on a tour of its operations. The company seems to be making a favourable impression.

British Steel, which saw a plunge in half-year profits on Monday, raising a question mark over the final dividend, halted its slide, closing unchanged at 849p.

Wall Street prices, page 31

MICHAEL CLARK

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Curves on BT's playing field

Potential investors in British Telecom Mark Two might like to note that Mark Three could be a little closer than they think. The pathfinder prospectus makes it clear that the government will be free to sell its remaining 26 billion holding after March 3, 1993, the day after the third call on the shares. That is also just before the end of the 1992-93 financial year, in which the Chancellor, assuming re-election, might find BT quite handy to help fill an £8 billion target for state sales. When the government retained 40 per cent of National Power and PowerGen, it pledged to hold on until April 1993.

The pathfinder carefully details, without resolving, the uncertainties that lie ahead for BT. These are political, competitive and above all regulatory and bear reading by anyone who intends to hold the partly-paid shares for more than a few days. The inclusion of a statement by Sir Bryan Carnberg, BT's regulator, is a welcome innovation, though its main message is that, while Sir Bryan does not want to cripple BT, he is keeping all his 1993 options open.

In other respects, the public remains in the dark. The final price will not be revealed until after the private investor has put the chequebook away. This might deter individuals used to buying goods with the price marked, if they are interested in more than the discount on the first instalment. The government is also not saying how many shares will be sold, one of an excessive array of discretionary judgments aimed at managing the market in BT shares to the point of manipulation. The advisers can protect the BT share price with warnings that disruptive sellers may be punished, they can meddle in the after-market by buying shares back and can use the even more dubious "quality threshold", which was informally applied to private investors in the electricity flotation, to rule on the suitability of institutional purchasers.

They will favour those seen as long-term holders, as against those who might ape the small investor by cashing profits. The Prudential or Nippon Life should pass muster. XYZ Nominees, operating out of the Cayman Islands, can forget it. There are, however, no clear tests for lack of quality. Like an elephant, says the Treasury, you can identify it even if you cannot describe it. The government claims investors will compete on a level playing field. The game may well end with a fair result, but there are many bumps and hollows on the pitch and it would be helpful to know just what warrants a sending-off.

Oily upturn

The economic recovery is happening, but not in a way most ordinary people might recognise. The 1 per cent rise in industrial production recorded in the third quarter is fully consistent with the Chancellor's upbeat forecast, in his autumn statement, that national output will rise by 0.75 per cent in the second half of the year. The quality of recovery is more problematical. The production rise was entirely accounted for by a rise in North Sea oil output, which has now climbed back to a near-optimum rate and cannot be expected to contribute much more.

Manufacturing output remains flat, though there are significant movements within this. Both consumer goods, other than textiles, and the capital investment sector are still firmly on the bottom or falling, but some of the hard-hit materials and intermediate goods industries, which suffered from destocking, are beginning to bounce back. These sectors should continue to recover and investment will go on falling. The crucial element, therefore, is when the consumer industries will start to take a lead. There is no sign of this yet in manufacturing. The full figures for gross domestic product, due on Tuesday, will show whether, as some anecdotal evidence suggests, some of the service trades are turning.

Working to erode growing peaks of unemployment

With figures poised to bring more bad news on jobs today, Philip Bassett assesses trends in joblessness

In the august surroundings of an imposing Whitehall institution this week, a compendium of the economic establishment's good and great gather to fret over whether a particular idea — in this case, co-ordinated pay bargaining — can help eradicate a problem as old as the capitalist free market system.

On the same day, a right-wing think tank suggests solving the issue by setting those most affected to planting trees. From near-opposite ends of the political-economic spectrum, their approaches could hardly have been more different, but they were linked by the object of their concern: unemployment.

Proffered solutions to unemployment are coming thick and fast from all political and economic viewpoints, prompted by what appears to be an inexorable rise in the number out of work. Whether the unemployment figures that Michael Howard, the employment secretary, will announce today top the 2.5 million mark or not is almost beside the point: unemployment as a personal, social, economic and political scourge is once again firmly embedded in British life.

The unemployment data are likely to be difficult for the government. The rise is expected to be greater than last month's low increase of 35,700, reversing the downward trend in increases of the last few months. The idea that for 1,200 people to become unemployed every day is relatively good news for the government is astounding, and shows how much the issue is again moving into the politics of indifference. Except this time, mass unemployment is not a matter of indifference for most people — many of them the government's most central supporters.

Unemployment used to be something that happened to someone else: someone "up north", someone who was a manual worker, someone employed in a dinosaur smokestack industry, someone who had priced or struck himself out of work. If that was ever the case, it is not so now. As Tony Blair, Labour's employment spokesman, says: "This recession is now hitting every occupation in every industry in every region of the country."

Is it? Since unemployment started rising again in March last year, ending a record fall of 44 months after the long lag of the early-Eighties recession, how has Britain been affected?

□ **Total:** Today's increase is expected to add at least 40,000 to UK seasonally adjusted unemployment, which, since unemployment started to go up again, has risen by 854,000, or 53 per cent — an average of 44,621 every month.

□ **By gender:** Unemployment used to be largely a male preserve, but female unemployment is accelerating fast, rising by almost two-fifths to stand at 19.5 per cent of the total. The average monthly increase for women is running at as much as a third of that for men.

□ **Occupational:** Until the planned move next year to a quarterly official labour force survey, the government's unemployment figures are not categorised by job, or even by broad occupational sector, but the slower, and much more estimated, employment figures give at least some clue as to where the jobs have gone. Despite arguments that this is a service-based recession, manufacturing industry has again been hardest hit. Of the total fall in employment of 597,000 to June — the latest point where all figures are available, and a good deal less than the rise in unemployment — manufacturing has lost 50.4 per cent, or 301,000 people. Services have lost 28.8 per cent of the total, and construction 14 per cent.

□ **Regional:** The South has borne the brunt of the rise. The three southern regions of the Southeast, Southwest and East Angles together account for 57 per cent of the entire rise in unemployment, with the Southeast alone accounting for 43 per cent of the total increase. Unemployment in the Southeast has risen 108 per cent. In the Southeast outside London, it is up 140 per cent. Total unemployment in the Southeast, at 706,700, dwarfs that in any other area; the closest to it is the Northwest, with 303,300.

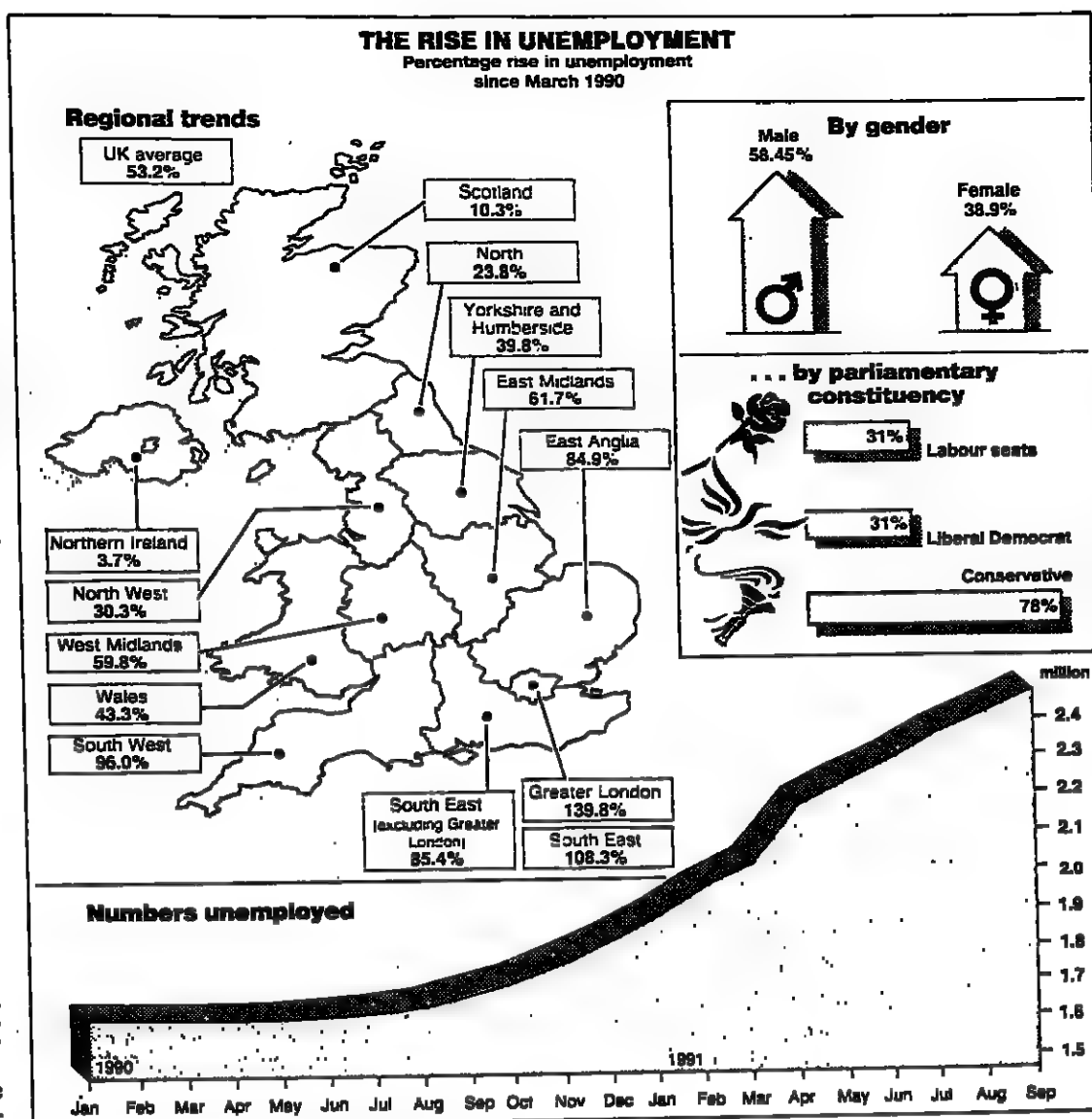
□ **Political:** Unemployment is hitting the Conservatives hard. When *The Times*, at the start of the year, carried out the first analysis of the political impact of unemployment, measuring the number out of work by the parliamentary seats held by each political party, unemployment in Tory seats was rising five times as fast as in Labour areas.

Ministers protested this was from a low base. They were right; but the fear of unemployment is generated more by the speed of its increase than its overall level. Since then, the gap has narrowed, with the rise in Tory areas coming down to twice that in Labour areas. But the latest analysis by *The Times* shows the gap opening again, with the unemployment increase in Tory seats running at an average of two and a half times that in Labour areas.

Total unemployment in Tory seats is 1.2 million, to 1 million in Labour and Liberal Democrat seats. What is not clear is whether there is a direct connection between rising unemployment and voting intention. In the prime minister's constituency of Huntingdon, for instance, unemployment has risen 128 per cent, higher than the average for both the Southeast and Tory seats, but it does not necessarily mean it will have an impact on John Major's 27,044 majority.

The nervousness for Conservative MPs, however, especially those with small majorities and where the rise in unemployment exceeds their majority, is that it might, and that makes each month's figures a genuine and far from diminishing political worry.

In overall terms, unemployment is set to go on rising, even if, as ministers claim, the recovery is under way. Most forecasters say the figures will reach 3 million next year. Most do not envisage a significant fall from that level either. With long-term unemployment also rising, the increase in the number out of work is likely to confirm the dark pattern lurking behind each month's set of figures — that each peak of unemployment in Britain is higher than the last, and each subsequent fall when it comes fails to take unemployment back to its previous low point. The misery of unemployment — its distress, hopelessness and despair — is not going to go away.



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Sense of déjà vu in topics of debate

Like the peaks and troughs of the business cycle, the hot topics of debate in the business arena seem to come around with monotonous regularity. At a conference yesterday on one of the fashionable issues, corporate governance, Sir Adrian Cadbury, chairman of a high-powered investigation of the subject, quoted from a similar enquiry in 1934. Sadly, Sir Adrian reflected, little seems to have changed in 57 years. Then, as now, the issue raised its head after a recessionary shock had exposed some of the more dubious practices of corporate management. This time, shareholder concern has been sparked by the corporate flops of the late Eighties and Nineties, and the apparent inability of shareholders to control irresponsible corporate strategies and excessive director salaries.

In a conference speech, John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, advocated a much-increased role for institutional shareholders in corporate strategy.

According to Mr Smith, relations between shareholders and management could be improved by wider and more judicious use of non-executive directors. One area of corporate strategy identified by Mr Smith as benefiting from these close links was takeovers. "It must be in their mutual interest to work together to avoid the disruptions of excessive takeover activity, and to consider together the commercial justification of takeover decisions." For Mr Smith, Germany and Japan provide the role models for a system of corporate governance fostering that Holy Grail of British business, long termism.

Scarcely a single element of Mr Smith's speech jarred with Sir Adrian's observations. He and his committee are concerned with the financial aspects of corporate governance, in particular the apparent ineffectiveness of the audit profession in warning shareholders of impending financial corporate disaster. As he said, quoting the senior partner of an accountancy firm, only the "blind and deaf" would regard the current state of the auditing profession with anything other than concern. Whether the situation looks any better in 57 years will be for future generations to judge.



Smith: identified Holy Grail

Jonathan Prynn

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Carnwath to advise Vestey's

ALISON Carnwath, a corporate finance director at Henry Schroder Wagg, will go down in City history as the first merchant banker to be appointed to advise the Vestey family, reputed to be worth £1.4 billion. Mrs Carnwath, aged 38, a chartered accountant who switched to merchant banking 11 years ago, will lead a team of corporate financiers, all from Schroders, and their brief will be to negotiate a refinancing package with Union International's 96 bankers. Union is the Vestey's flagship company, with interests ranging from cattle to fillet steak. The Schroders team, recommended by Richard Stone, the corporate reconstruction specialist with Coopers & Lybrand, is understood to have been given a time limit of three months, but Mrs Carnwath says it may take a little longer. "We are trying to buy as much time as we can," she says. If they should fail — and Mrs Carnwath says they are "realistic" about its problems — Union faces the prospect of administration. If they are successful, Schroders will then also advise on the future strategy of the group. Fortunately perhaps, Mrs Carnwath assures me that she is not yet a vegetarian. "But I might be by the end of this," she says.

Just joking

IMAGE-CONSCIOUS brokers at Smith New Court thought their time was up yesterday when a memorandum suddenly appeared on desks banning the use of



exotic company cars. No more Porsche, Aston Martin or Ferrari badges in the company car park, it said. Fortunately, the memo turned out to be an old-style practical joke but, according to insiders, who witnessed the reaction of colleagues at first hand, it was a very convincing one. "These are very austere times," said one broker there, before learning that it had been sent in jest.

Names in lights

BUDDING City dramatists take to the stage next week with a production of *Daisy Pulls It Off*, a romp through the world of schoolgirl hockey. The play, which opens on Wednesday at the central conference centre, behind the Barbican, is the last of the year to be staged by the Stock Exchange Dramatic Society. Jeremy Lewis, joint managing director of Seymour Pierce Butterfield, the broker, plays a long-lost father, while Judy Salmon, training manager at James Capel, plays a headmistress. William Harrison-Wallace, a smaller companies

market-maker at Warburgs, plays a music teacher, and Caroline Bell, of the Stock Exchange, is senior girl and head of sport.

Figuring it out

HE ALMOST makes it sound exciting... Sir Brian Jenkins, the new Lord Mayor of London and, when wearing his professional hat, a senior partner of Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountant, says of that profession: "It is not far off advocacy — explaining things. It is much more to do with people and explanations than cold figures. There is so much variety in the work, and the companies you serve, geographically. It's a wonderful world for young people who can travel wherever they want with the profession."

Mouse trade

THE report in the City Diary last week, that a mouse had brought trading to a standstill on the dealing floor at Goldman Sachs' \$300 million European headquarters, brought back memories for David Sinclair, ex-Grieveson Grant and Capel-Cure Myers. Sinclair, aged 45, who is looking for a senior administrative job within a broking firm, building society or fund management group, after resigning "on a point of principle" from CCM in June, recalls when a mouse ran across the Stock Exchange trading floor late in 1974, when trading volumes were desperately low after the crash. As the traders tried to make a path for the tiny creature, one wit shouted: "Don't kill it — it might have an order."

CAROL LEONARD

SE news change for the good

From Mr Peter Griffiths

Sir, I refer to your editorial of November 1 headed "A charter for insiders" and a subsequent article headed "Law and disorder" (November 6), both dealing with a ruling by corporate affairs minister, John Redwood, on the London Stock Exchange's arrangements for company news.

We believe that financial institutions and investors worldwide will benefit from Mr Redwood's decision to permit companies to make announcements to the Stock Exchange and news organisations simultaneously.

It will also benefit the previous decision by the Exchange to release to news organisations, including its own Topic service, a consolidated feed of company announcements called the Regulatory News Service (RNS).

Prior to that decision, the majority of such announcements were available first on the exchange's own information service, largely confined to the UK.

The minister's recent decision restores the rules governing the obligations on companies to the position before RNS was produced by the exchange.

When the exchange started to produce RNS in December 1990, it insisted that companies in future could only release information to the exchange and could not regard

their information as in the public domain until it had actually appeared on RNS. RNS at peak times could delay items for lengthy periods, increasing the risk of uncertainty and insider trading. The position from next January will enable companies to release information to the exchange and news organisations they can be certain that it is in the public domain worldwide. Investors will also be well-served because competition will ensure speedy global dissemination.

We find it difficult to believe that a move back to the pre-December 1990 position on disclosure will cause chaos in the future, as alleged by Mr Rawlins, when it did not in the past. Furthermore, the UK will have from January 1 a company news report regime similar to that of the USA, where disclosure is very rapid and widespread.

The great majority of financial markets around the world rely on specialist news agencies for news affecting them. Such agencies can only exist for any length of time if they build reliability as well as speed into their editorial processes.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GRIFFITHS,
Manager,
Corporate Media Relations,
Reuters Holdings plc,
85 Fleet Street, EC4.

example, perhaps, of what the eye doesn't see, the heart... Yours faithfully,
BRIAN DAGNALL,
Golden Bush,
Sandy Down, Boldre,
Lymington, Hants.

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HAWKER SIDDELEY

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Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you your total capital gain or loss against the £2,000 dividend. If it matches you have won the prize. If not, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always give your card available when claiming. Claim rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Share
1	HSBC	Banking	100
2	Woolworths	Retail	100
3	BT	Telecom	100
4	Body Shop	Personal Care	100
5	Bayer Chemical	Pharmaceutical	100
6	Sevensant	Industrial	100
7	CH21	Building	100
8	Polypipe	Industrial	100
9	Broken Hill	Industrial	100
10	More O'Connell	Paper	100
11	Mandarin	Building	100
12	Clifford	Industrial	100
13	Season	Transport	100
14	Epson	Building	100
15	Shaw	Industrial	100
16	Landis	Electrical	100
17	British Telecom	Telecom	100
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Please take into account any bonus shares

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily share price for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

Two readers shared yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize. Peter Hasegrove, of Canterbury, Kent, and Nigel Harris of Maiden Vale, west London, each receive £1,000.

1991 High Low Company Price + - % P/E

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Shares fall sharply

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 11. Dealings end November 22. Settlement day November 25. Settlement day December 2. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price-earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Flying the flag, setting standards



In a special report to mark World Quality Day, Patricia Tisdall examines the quality schemes for people and products that provide guaranteed standards for British goods to ensure a cutting edge in the fight for exports

Today is World Quality Day, so designated annually by the United Nations since 1988. This is the day on which companies are supposed to look at their activities in terms of satisfying the requirements of their customers. Although it sounds pious, this is a simplified version of a commercial philosophy known as total quality management, or TQM.

"For companies to succeed in today's competitive environment, they must be in a position to anticipate and respond to rapidly changing customer expectations," says Peter Lilley, trade and industry secretary, in a letter marking the government's support for World Quality Day. "The adoption of a total quality management approach will help them to do this more effectively," he says.

The letter introduces a symposium, supported by the trade and industry department and organised in London today by the British Quality Association. Delegates, who include participants in the association's British Quality Awards presentation, held last night at the Park Lane Hotel, will hear how good management of staff can offer a recipe for world class achievement.

"It doesn't matter whether an employee is in design, sales, accounts or on the reception desk; everyone has an impact on the image and performance of the company," Mr Lilley says.

The government has been involved with quality assurance since the 1982 white paper linked standardisation with quality and international competitiveness. Since then, through the trade and industry department's quality initiative programme, it has promoted the concept that quality management systems should be installed to a recognised international standard and assessed by an impartial external body.

Evidence that its activities are bearing results can be seen in Mr Lilley's announcement to symposium delegates that some 12,500 British busi-

nesses have now gained accredited certificates which show that their quality management systems have reached the BS 5750 standard.

The government's tactics are varied. Some of the recent increases in standards arise from changes in public sector purchasing policies. The defence ministry is one of many state-financed organisations which now requires most suppliers to have a certified quality management system.

The latest measure has been the department of trade and industry's sponsorship of an industry sector scheme focusing on software and information technology. Launched in June under the name TickIT, the programme aims "to bring a common understanding of quality management concepts,

to its market-place. We feel this is a trend which will probably extend to other sectors of industry, so standardisation becomes more decentralised."

BSI Quality Assurance, the commercial certification arm of the institution, is the latest of three assessing bodies which issue certificates. The others are Bureau Veritas Quality International Ltd and Det Norske Veritas.

One feature of the programme is that it requires all auditors to be knowledgeable about this comparatively young and fast-growing industry, and to pass an interview vetting process. Another is that it is owned and led by the industry itself.

Software, together with high technology equipment, was identified as a target area for the national quality campaign in a review in 1986, shortly after the formation of the National Accreditation Council for Certification Bodies.

In 1987, the department commissioned two studies: one from Price Waterhouse, which looked at costs and benefits, while the other, from Logica, examined standards.

The reports were well-received by the industry which estimates that losses due to poor quality software cost the UK £1 million every hour. The British Computer Society, after extensive consultation, agreed with both reports that the internationally recognised ISO 9001 (EN 29001, BS 5750) standards could be interpreted to meet its members' needs.

"TickIT is important because it fills a gap in the national certification schemes," Mr Slater says. "Every developed country, every developing country and all major companies in the world have the problem of how to manage software development. The scheme provides a way of showing that the international standard on quality management is understood and implemented."

● Guide to Software Quality Management System Construction and Certification using EN 29001 costs £7 and can be obtained from the DTI TickIT Project Office, 68 Newman Street, London W1A 4SE.



Peter Lilley: "Companies must respond rapidly"

accreditation and certification to the software and information technology industry".

"The response has far exceeded expectations," says John Slater, a consultant with Logica, who heads the project. More than 7,500 copies of the guidelines have been distributed instead of the 1,000 or so originally anticipated. Requests have come from many different countries.

Already the scheme is recognised as offering a model which other industries can follow. "A standards body within a standards body" is how it is described by Dr Ivan Dunstan, the director general of the British Standards Institution. "It manages its programme, its priorities and its resources in a way which is close to the industry itself and



Never mind the width, feel the quality: Steve Green, a quality controller, inspects yarn at the award-winning Milliken Contract Carpets

Customer service pays dividends

Staff training and commitment is the secret of success — as proved by the winners at last night's British Quality Awards

Last night, at a dinner held at the Park Lane Hotel, central London, Girobank plc became the first service company to win a British Quality Award.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, the Post Office chairman, presented trophies to Girobank and the other two award winners, John Laing plc and Milliken Contract Carpets Ltd. Certificates were awarded to the highly commended runners-up, Air Products plc and ICI Chemicals & Polymers (Melinar).

Girobank won the award for "four years of demonstrable and quantifiable business improvement achieved through a commitment to total quality".

An important feature of the bank's programme is the involvement of its staff, initially through a series of special workshops and training courses. This enables employees at all levels to take responsibility for their own work and identify opportunities for business improvements. The process has achieved cost savings of more than £8 million and raised the level of customer service.

Receiving the award, Lewis Evans, the managing director of Girobank, said: "Service is a major influence on customer choice and the bank's drive for quality of service is a crucial marketing differential."

John Laing won its award for "outstanding achievement in implementing a total quality process in the building and construction industry, to the satisfaction of its customers and with the involvement of its employees and sub-contractors".

Training of staff in total quality concepts is a continu-

ous and continuing process at Laing, with induction courses for beginners, continuing with specific courses and regular articles in internal publications, and finally providing extra facilities, such as the recently established learning resource centre.

Laing maintains close co-operation with its suppliers and sub-contractors and has included them in its total quality programme. Philip Ball, the Laing group director of quality management, says: "We assess them, we train them, we listen to their suggestions, we monitor and record their performance and we award them."

"The Laing total quality process concentrates on the commitment, awareness and training of everyone involved. This award confirms our position as leading the industry in terms of quality and meeting the needs and expectations of

our customers. We have not simply paid lip service to quality. Those who ignore it as a business strategy will face major problems in the future."

Milliken Contract Carpets, the Wigan-based modular carpet manufacturer, became one of this year's winners for "outstanding improvements in product quality, delivery and customer satisfaction and for capturing the involvement and support of their employees".

An example of the company's improvement is its record for delivering goods to customers on time. In 1991 the achievement was 99.9 per cent.

Bob Baird, the business manager of Milliken, believes that the award is a testimony to the staff's total commitment, from the factory floor to the design studio and through to the customer service desks. "UK companies are introduc-

ing new management strategies, but without the involvement of a dedicated workforce, no strategem can gain advantage."

In accordance with Milliken's flat-line management style, the company's representatives at the presentation and dinner last night were not from the usual management hierarchy, but staff members who have worked to achieve an almost 100 per cent improvement in customer service.

As in the best tradition, it is not the winning of the races but the competing which is important. Certainly, for Milliken's customers, the four years of surviving have meant many new services, more than 1,500 carpet design options and many new associated products.

"Ultimately, both the cus-

tomers and staff benefit from the award, through improved services and product quality, which in turn increases brand loyalty and sales," says Mike Sharkey, the plant manager.

The British Quality Awards scheme was launched in 1984 to give impetus to the government initiative for improving British management, products and services. The intention was to create a national award which would encourage the adoption of total quality management. This year, Ray Wedge, the judges' chairman, said: "Simple product quality is a small criterion in the overall perception of judges. One of the most important aspects we look for is evidence of overall staff involvement and customer satisfaction."

Since the scheme began, out of the hundreds of companies which have entered, only 22 have received awards. These include large multinationals such as IBM, Ford and Rank Xerox, as well as companies with as few as 36 employees.

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How to implement TQM successfully from the top. Competitive position as the driving force. Performance Measures for decision support and evaluating returns.

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The seminars are held at Pembroke House, Lydiard Millicent, Pera International's management centre.

For more information please call Helen Clarke, quoting Ref no: T1411 at Pera International, Pembroke House, Lydiard Millicent, nr. Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 9LS.

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Crowning glory at the sign of the tick

THERE are now 12,500 suppliers that have certificates stating that their quality management system conforms with British Standard 5750. Though any organisation can offer BS 5750 certification, only 18 — listed below — are accredited, Patricia Tidall writes.

Accreditation follows impartial assessment against European standards. The standards require that an organisation should be impartial and staffed by competent people and have a governing board responsible for certification and representative of the principal interests involved.

A distinctive national mark — a gold crown and tick — is awarded by the trade and industry bodies that are accredited after assessment by the National Accreditation Council for Certification Bodies (NACCB).

The United Kingdom Register of Quality Assured Companies is available from HMSO (annual subscription £125, quarterly updates), and contains details of 13,000 registered companies.

Accredited Certification Bodies	Date of accreditation
Associated Offices Quality Certification Longridge House, Longridge Place, Manchester M60 4DT (061-833 2255)	May 1990
ASTA Certification Services Prudential Chambers, 23-24 Market Place, Rugby CV21 3DU (0788 578435)	June 1989
BSI Quality Assurance PO Box 375, Milton Keynes MK14 6LL (0908 220908)	Jan 1987
British Approvals Service for Electric Cables Silbury Court, 360 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes MK9 2AF (0908 691121)	Apr 1987
Bureau Veritas Quality International 3rd Floor, 70 Borough High Street, London SE1 1XF (071-378 8113)	Nov 1988
Central Certification Services Victoria House, Midland Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 1LU (0933 441798)	June 1991
Ceramic Industry Certification Scheme Queens Road, Penkridge, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 7LQ (0782 411008)	July 1987
Construction Quality Assurance Arcade Chambers, The Arcade, Market Place, Newark, Notts NG24 1UD (0636 708700)	July 1989
Det Norske Veritas Quality Assurance Veritas House, 112 Station Road, Sidcup, Kent DA15 7BU (081-309 7477)	July 1989
Engineering Inspection Authority Board Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdcage Walk, London SW1H 8JJ (071-973 1272)	June 1991
Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Norfolk House, Wellesley Road, Croydon CR9 2DT (081-688 6882)	Feb 1988
National Inspection Council Quality Assurance 5 Cotswold Business Park, Millfield Lane, Caddington, Beds LU1 4AR (0562 841144)	July 1990
SIRA Certification Service Saighton Lane, Saughton, Chester CH3 6EG (0244 332200)	June 1989
The Loss Prevention Certification Board Meirhoe Avenue, Borehamwood, Herts WD8 2BJ (081-207 2345)	Oct 1988
Quality Scheme for Ready Mixed Concrete 3 High Street, Hampton, Middx TW12 2SQ (081-941 0273)	Dec 1988
TRADA Stocking Lane, Hughenden Valley, High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 4NR (0240 245484)	Feb 1991
UK Certification Authority for Reinforcing Steels Oak House, Tube Hill, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1BL (0732 450000)	Oct 1986
Yarsley Quality Assured Firms Trowers Way, Redhill RH1 2JN (0737 768445)	Apr 1987



Hand-finish: final checks for Stansted airport's new terminal, built by Laing, a quality award winner

Marker for the future

Organisations that fail to adopt tough standards may find themselves without customers, Nick Nuttall says

By the end of the century, every organisation, from a school to an advertising agency, could be sporting logos on letterheads indicating that it has embraced the emerging quality revolution. Growing numbers of manufacturing and industrial companies have sought approval and certification of operations under BS 5750, the British quality standard, in the past five years.

International standards organisations and the European Commission, through initiatives and directives, are also pressing the quality argument as a way of making European industry and business more competitive. BS 5750, which is now an international standard mirrored in the ISO 9000 standards series, is poised to become broader and deeper under moves emerging from the European Community.

Under its new guise BS 5750 is likely also to cover such areas as "strategy, planning, leadership and customer satisfaction," says John Oakland, the professor of quality at Bradford University's school of management.

Certification is the platform from which companies and organisations progress to a more all-embracing imple-

mentation of a full quality culture. "I would not scrap BS 5750; it is a damn good discipline in which firms have to check their own systems," Professor Oakland says.

Evan Morgan, the executive director of the Certification Authority for Reinforcing Steels (CARES) and chairman of the Association of Certification Bodies, believes the future is in Europe and elsewhere in the world and that the certification culture based on the equivalent of BS 5750 is only beginning to emerge.

Mr Morgan says: "A few years ago you had some other European countries saying that quality systems and certification is a typical British remedy for a typical British malaise... now there is a tremendous change because they now realise what it is all about."

This expansion of certification and standards is, however, presenting its own potentially fraught international trade problems, according to Michael Mainelli, of

may seem understandable. Some experts believe that, soon, if a product fails, litigants may win cases if a company does not have certified suppliers. Similar cases could be brought against service and public sector organisations if the quality culture becomes all-pervasive.

This is putting unwelcome pressure on some of Britain's smaller enterprises, according to Stephen Alambritis, of the National Federation of Self-Employed and Small Businesses. The main concern is that the cost of becoming certified can be many thousands of pounds.

One remedy, which the federation is considering, is to become an accredited certification body and charge its members reduced assessment fees. "We are here to help out members... we would not stomach anything over £500," Mr Alambritis says.

Professor Oakland sympathises with the very small companies that have fewer than ten employees, but in relation to companies with 50 employees and more he says: "If they say it is expensive then I do not believe them. They will soon see how expensive it is not to do it. In the end we are talking about losing business."

BS5750!!!

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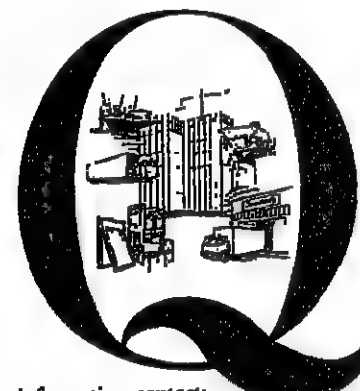
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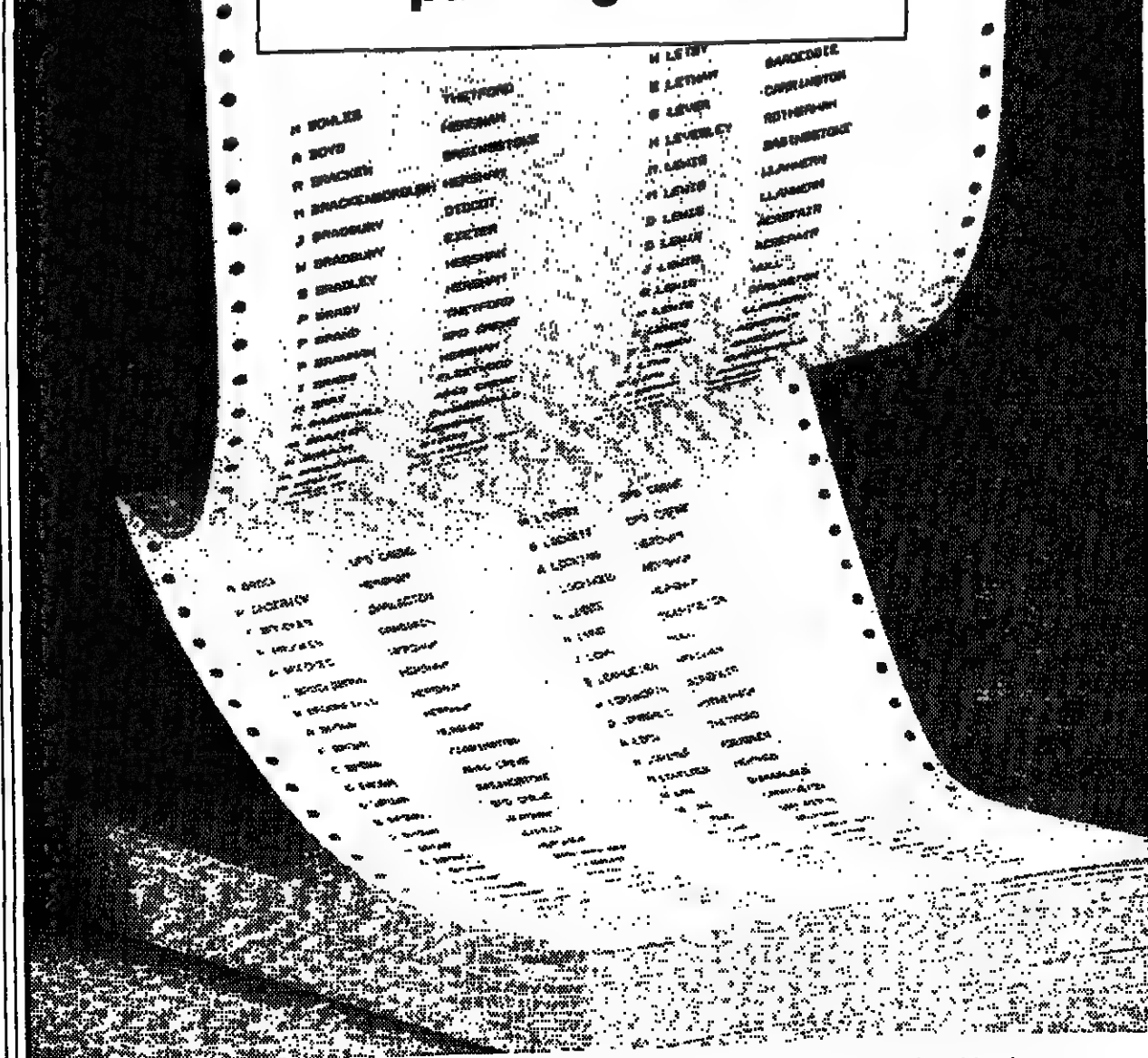
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AIR PRODUCTS

How the system began

The standards
are based on
the demands
of customers

British Standard BS 5750 describes a management system that one user says will "delight the customer and satisfy his expectations". The requirements are aimed primarily at preventing "non-conformity", or defects, at all stages from design to servicing. About 12,500 UK companies now have a quality management system registered as meeting BS 5750.

The idea dates from the 1950s, when procurement bodies devised standards of manufacture and products. During the 1960s, quality schemes evolved for particular sectors, operated by such organisations as the Central Electricity Generating Board, the National Coal Board and the Post Office.

The emphasis, however, was still on inspection, and the direct cost of the schemes was borne by the purchaser. The breakthrough came in the late 1970s when the British Standards Institution was asked for a standard quality management system. The request was made after studies of Japanese methods of quality control and design and the success of retailers such as Marks & Spencer in requiring suppliers to introduce quality controls at the design stage.

The resulting standard set out requirements that must be established and documented to satisfy an independent assessor that the system is effective.

This success in the UK brought about an international standard, ISO 9000, in 1987. The UK revised the British standard so that BS 5750 (1987) is identical to the ISO standard. The European standards body also replicated ISO 9000 as EN 2900. Thus ISO 9000, EN 2900 and BS 5750 are identical.

The reasons companies



Spoonful of quality: IBM chips are produced under the quality management system

choose to follow the quality route vary, but a recent study found two-thirds viewed quality as a strategic necessity, others responded to pressures from trade associations or purchasers, and a third category were driven by changed market conditions. Only 12 per cent had been spurred into action by export requirements.

Implementation of BS 5750 can be lengthy and expensive. Most companies take two years, and one took four. The

cost is accounted for by fees to the certification body and the effort of company staff and consultants in preparing and assisting with assessment.

The guidelines of the TickIT scheme for the software industry, sponsored by the trade and industry department, estimate that, at 1989 rates, the internal costs for a software function were about £10,500 for the assessment and £4,500 a year for subsequent monitoring. Fees charged by third-party certi-

fication organisations vary but are estimated at £5,000 to £8,000 for a software company with 50-100 employees operating on one site, plus £400 for the application fee and £500 for the certificate.

Annual surveillance fees are 60 to 70 per cent of the initial assessment fee.

PATRICIA TISDALL
"Attitudes within British Business to Quality Management Systems", sponsored by CMC Partnership and conducted by Jay Communications

CASE STUDY

ONE company for which quality and excellence have been corporate goals for many years is IBM UK, Patricia Tisdall writes. In July this year, it also became the first company of its size to obtain company-wide BS 5750 registration.

"The actual assessment was very rigorous - and rightly so," says Dick Mason, the director of market-driven quality. "During a four-month period, 551 quality assurance auditors carried out assessments at ten sites including manufacturing, research, headquarters, marketing and service functions."

After initial registration there is a continuous assessment programme, with the certification assessors making check calls at 48 hours' notice approximately every six months. Registration can be removed if any serious faults in the quality management system are found.

"Our self-declared objective is to maintain our registration unblemished," Mr Mason says.

The company has always had a strong commitment to quality, and launched a number of successful programmes during the 1980s. In the 1990s it decided to extend that commitment as part of a total quality programme. The result was the establishment of market-driven quality as the company's way of ensuring it delivered what was required by its customers.

BS 5750 registration is seen as an important step towards its objectives.

"Quality must become all-pervasive," Mr Mason explains. "It is a journey, not a destination!"

Academic duty to train brains

Higher education
colleges have a
vital role in the
study of quality,
Professor J.H.
Rogerson says

THE need for quality in the provision of products and services of all kinds in a globally competitive environment is self-evident. It should also be self-evident that institutions of higher education ought to have a role in providing appropriate education, training, research and consultancy to support British industry in the drive for maintaining and improving quality, not just in putting across the concepts of ISO 9000 (BS 5750) but in the wider sphere of quality management.

The role of the universities and polytechnics in such activities is widespread, but only a few institutions play any significant part. The situation in the rest of Europe is not too dissimilar. This is because quality is one of those words that can be interpreted in many ways.

Quality can be realistically defined only in the context of a particular technology or business. This provides the key to the role of academic institutions.

The prime educational objective must be to enable students to carry out quality management tasks. The value of any education or training increases in proportion to the knowledge that the students have of their particular field. Therefore, the most comprehensive educational work is done at postgraduate or post-experience level. Teaching staff should have relevant industrial or commercial experience.

There is also, of course, much teaching at undergraduate level but this is best concentrated on specific techniques related to specific engineering or science disciplines. This teaching is necessary and relevant but it is not teaching in quality management.

At the postgraduate level

two approaches are distinguishable: specialist technological universities, which teach quality management in the context of their expertise in particular sectors of industry, and business schools, which teach elements of quality management as a subset of general management programmes.

In general, the business school tends to stress the motivational and organisational aspects of the subject, whereas the technology-based schools tend to relate the subject more to manufacturing processes and systems and manufacturing management. There is a view that this latter approach is more relevant to our needs as a manufacturing nation that must compete globally, although both approaches are complementary and both help to

provide the body of informed managers of the future.

The approach at Cranfield Institute of Technology is, as far as possible, to integrate the teaching and research activity, and the master's degrees of the school of industry and manufacturing science that are taught are approximately 50 per cent formal teaching and 50 per cent an individual research project.

The master's students, and doctorate students, therefore need real quality problems to work on. This means much of the research project work is carried out on company premises and, in fact, most students are sponsored, often on a part-time basis, by their employers.

From research work and consultancy, Cranfield's quality group within the institute's school of industrialised manufacturing science, raises about £1 million. Such industrial support, not all of it, incidentally, from the UK, is a good measure of the relevance of the work being carried out. In terms of research, academics have a unique duty to think about the future needs of industry.

The author is the head of the manufacturing quality centre, at the Cranfield Institute of Technology.

JOHN MANNING



Integrated teaching and research: Professor J.H. Rogerson

Harmony for the single market

Europe takes its first step in issuing
a set of international benchmarks

A big stride has been taken in the past year in getting a common set of benchmarks in Europe established for quality assessment, Patricia Tisdall writes.

The pace of development has attracted favourable attention from the United States where attitudes to formal certification systems used to be negative, and from Japan. Momentum has been stimulated by the recession.

Paul Hewlett, the chairman of the European Organisation for Testing and Certification (EOTC) council and secretary of the UK's National Accreditation Council for Certification Bodies (NACCB), describes it as "enhancing competitiveness".

An additional impetus has come from the keen interest

shown by East European organisations wishing to get into line with Western quality standards. "They see our quality management systems and certification as a means of showing that they have got there," Mr Hewlett says.

A memorandum of understanding has now been signed by 12 members of the EOTC agreeing a mutually acceptable set of rules against which companies and their products can be assessed.

This is seen as the first step in establishing a method of issuing certificates that are internationally reliable.

A reassuring instance of

watchdogs taking their own medicine has been the production of a European Standard, EN 45011/2, which underpins the agreement. This specifies the criteria that quality system certification bodies should apply to the management of their own operations. Included are methods of ensuring both impartiality and the competence of assessors.

Move towards European harmonisation of quality standards are welcomed as a means of bringing goods to markets. The need for such a drive dates from 1986, when the multiple checks and tests demanded by customer, en-

vironmental and other lobby groups and those set by professional buyers were seen as a barrier to trade.

In December 1989, a European Council resolution calling for "a global approach to conformity assessment" gave the go-ahead. It advocated the use of European Standards relating to quality management systems and opened the way to a spate of individual directives on safety and environmental issues.

"If trade in the single market is to flow freely, customers need assurances of quality on which they can rely," Mr Hewlett says. "British organisations, and the standards developed by them have played a leading part in implementing the resolution."

Later this month, Denis Timmer, former president of IMC, who is chairing the event, says: "With 1992 moving ever closer, BS 5750 offers management consultants a quality assurance crucial to winning in the European market-place."

"Project Quality" survey available from John Morley, KPMG Management Consulting, 8 Salisbury Square, London EC4Y 8BB.

Quality courses

TO MEET the increasing demand for quality practitioners, the Institute of Quality Assurance runs an extensive programme of 56 courses a year. Patricia Tisdall writes. It is including new modules within both its own training programme and the syllabuses issued for the institute's qualifying examinations.

"We encourage other professional institutions to introduce a quality module into their examination structure," says John Davies, the institute's secretary general.

Additional requirements have arisen from the application of quality management systems to the information technology industries. Working with the British Computer Society, the institute has agreed plans to validate the claims to expertise by certification auditors. These include all potential auditors for the trade and industry department-sponsored scheme, TickIT, being interviewed by a panel of three professionals nominated by the institutes.



The TickIT programme provides authoritative guidance for software quality management and also an accredited certification scheme.

Accredited TickIT certification is available from:

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TickIT certificates are accepted by major procurement agencies as satisfying the requirements of BS 5750 part 1/ISO 9001/EN 29001.

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For information contact:

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the department for Enterprise

What is described as an "explosion of interest" in quality has occurred in the service sector in the past 12 months, led by local government, health and other public authorities, Patricia Tisdall writes.

Signs that financial institutions are also interested are shown in a study by KPMG Management Consulting, which found that 67 per cent of the 132 executives interviewed regarded service quality as the biggest factor

influencing a customer to buy. At the same time, there is evidence of ignorance about how quality can be improved. There is, for instance, still a heavy reliance on customer complaints, even though it is known from American experience that up to 90 per cent of dissatisfied customers will not buy again, and will not tell a company why. The KPMG survey found that 23 per cent of finance executives use complaint levels as the main yardstick for measuring quality, and 27 per cent knew nothing about BS 5750.

It is of particular significance, therefore, that management consultants have joined

Service sector aims to excel

the growing number of service providers to discover that quality management systems can apply to their own operations as much as to their clients'. Another recent survey by the CMC Partnership found that 78 per cent of companies employ consultants to help to implement a quality programme. The main reasons were that they lacked in-house expertise and wished to speed up the process of gaining certification.

The benefits of third-party assessment and certification will be spelled out at a conference organised by the Institute of Management Consultants (IMC), in London

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A spectacular goal from the England captain clinches a place in the European championship finals in Sweden

Lineker pounces to punish Poland

Poland 1
England 1

From STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
IN POZNAN

GARY Lineker, so often England's saviour, last night secured the nation's place in the finals of the European championship. With a spectacular equaliser, he gained the point that was required here for Graham Taylor's side to qualify as the winners of group seven.

Yet Taylor's adventurous gamble, including novices in a new formation, was in danger of failing. Only after the unconventional line-up had been abandoned and the team reshaped did England look likely to recover from the goal they had conceded after half an hour. They did so with a mere dozen minutes remaining.

The system, kept under wraps for five days, appeared to be the best that Taylor could design. The circumstances were far from ideal, since a whole team full of internationals was unavailable through injury, but some of the deficiencies were of the manager's own making. He chose to leave out another four experienced representatives.

The omission of Trevor Steven and Bryan Robson, a source of controversy ever since the depleted squad was originally revealed, was

particularly ill advised. Both would have added more than their qualities, which have already been tested in intimidating arenas. They would also have brought with them a sense of authority.

Taylor's policy of selecting five men in midfield, a ploy used by Jack Charlton here last month, initially caused confusion only to England themselves.

In spite of the lengthy preparation, no one seemed to be convinced about where he should be or who he should be marking. Before the doubts were removed, threats had already been posed.

Lee Dixon, whose contribution has recently been a target of criticism, blocked one after Gary Mabbitt had lost his footing and Andy Gray had momentarily lost his bearings.

England's discomfort, though it was briefly relieved by Andy Sinton's positive run and crisp drive at the other end, was ominous until the Poles lost their early impetus.

Lineker had suggested that the plan would be for England to move as a compact unit and suppress the play in the opposing half.

Although he was to act as a one-man frontline, therefore, he did not expect largely to be on his own. Yet for long periods he was an isolated figure, waiting for service and for support.

It was offered by David Platt, breaking from a central position, but neither Sinton nor David Rocastle, sup-

posedly the coiled springs on the flanks, were able to consistently provide assistance. In spite of Geoff Thomas's industry in a more defensive role, Gray was unable to fulfil his principal duty.

He was brought in to lift the level of England's creativity, which Taylor conceded was mundane against Turkey last month.

Yet Gray, overawed on his debut, struggled to direct a single pass to a colleague let alone display his imagination. He was mercifully spared further misery during the interval and was replaced by Alan Smith.

By then, though, significant damage had been inflicted. Gray, released delightfully by Platt's astute planning, headed, shot into the side-netting and Lineker had almost caught Bako by surprise with a looping volley.

But when England were apparently finding their shape and their balance, Poland took the lead.

Rocastle, in an attempt to halt Ziobor's menacing run, hauled him back by the shirt. The free kick, some 40 yards out, was of no danger until Ziobor rolled it towards Szwedczyk, a central defender lurking on his right. His distant drive would have been covered by Chris Woods had it not veered off the foot of Mabbitt and ricocheted into the unguarded corner of the net.

Only when Smith was brought on to renew his partnership with Lineker was England's response convincing. In rapid succession, Thomas, freed by Smith's nod, headed wide and Rocastle, after exchanging neatly and rapidly with Lineker, had his shot deflected for a corner.

Mabbitt then had an opportunity to redress his misfortune but his header floated over Bako and on to the roof of the net.

Poland: J. Bako (Bielata), R. Warych (Gawron), T. Wlodarczyk (Gawron), P. Szwedczyk (Gawron), R. Ziobor (Gawron), G. Szwedczyk (Gawron), D. Szwedczyk (Gawron), J. Szwedczyk (Gawron), A. Szwedczyk (Gawron), K. Szwedczyk (Gawron).

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Bursting clear: Sinton, of England, evades two Poland defenders in the 1-1 draw at the Lech stadium last night

Change works wonders

DAVID MILLER

was one that he might have been better advised to make before the start; the evidence was there in the marked improvement that immediately ran through his team.

Now the anxiety was Poland's, never mind that they were in the lead. For 20 minutes the ball was running England's way. Poland were feigning injuries and playing for time, and it was no less than justice — on the second-half run of play — when Lineker volleyed overhead one of the smartest of his 46 goals. Now England could hope to be in the finals, but it had certainly not been a hope they deserved, from the first 45 minutes.

While there was some justification in Taylor's intention to try and smother the middle of the field, preventing Poland's more skilful players from running at England, it had hardly made sense to do so with two novices in the

middle five. The results had been that Kosecki, Furtek, Urban and little Ziobor scythed their way through from every direction. England were fortunate, by half-time, to have conceded no more than the goal on Mabbitt's lacklustre deflection.

There were times in the first half when, excluding Bako in goal, there were three red shirts between Lineker and the Polish goal. It was unsurprising that England's attack was sterile, sorties by Platt and occasionally Rocastle coming to nothing.

Once Smith was there to increase the cause for Poland's concentration in defence, England's middle line of four found it was they who were enjoying more time and space. Before Lineker's equaliser, Rocastle had twice squandered penetrating runs on the right and Smith, though not knowing he was offside, had blazed the ball embarrassingly high over the bar with the whole net staring at him.

Such was England's im-

provement that Taylor felt bold enough — though perhaps just desperate enough — to send out Daley in place of Sinton. Twenty minutes were now remaining and the reward came eight minutes later.

Poland, though more dexterous on the ball, had lost their impetus and, with it, their morale. The England tide was being swelled by forward drive from Thomas, who previously had been sweeping in front of the back four.

There was nothing secure about England's position, for Poland's talent threatened to split them again during intermittent counter-attacks. Yet England had done enough, just, to totter into the European finals, rescuing for the moment their reputation and that of a manager whose decisions during his first 18 months have been less positive than he likes to believe. To find a formation that can take England as far as they went last year in Italy will demand some imagination on and off the field.

England trail in Platini's wake

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THE group seven winners are the third side to qualify for the finals in Sweden next summer. England join the host nation, and France, who were runaway winners of group one after gaining seven successive victories under the management of Michel Platini.

Two further finalists were to be decided late last night: Yugoslavia or Denmark, from group four, while the Soviet Union appeared on course as they required only a draw in their group match with Cyprus. The three other groups were still open, but offering the possibility of qualification to both Scotland and Wales.

Since failing to qualify for the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy, France have been revived by Platini, formerly an outrageously gifted player with the national side.

Platini's move to the dug-out has, apparently, been as effortless as his football. He has adapted to the rigours of man management and team organisation with the aplomb that proved the hallmark of his playing days, thereby confounding the doubters who said that the transition from player to manager was impossible at international level.

All-seat stadiums opposed

Brussels — Belgium will oppose Uefa's plans to make all-seat football stadiums mandatory, an official said yesterday.

"[Interior Minister Louis] Tobback will tell Uefa that Belgium is opposed to all-seat stadiums, Kris Van Limbergen, the Minister's adviser on crowd violence, said. "We're responsible for safety and we say we must have terraces. Uefa does not have to teach us any lessons."

He said terraces had crush barriers to stop supporters from rushing forwards. They would be removed if seats were installed.

Van Limbergen said research showed it was also more difficult to maintain law and order if the terrace areas, normally behind the goals, were replaced by seats.

Belgium's leading club, Anderlecht, who completed their stadium this summer, have already complied with Tobback's wish by keeping terraces for 6,000 supporters Van Limbergen said.

Ron Noades, the Crystal Palace chairman, has announced plans to build a 35,000 all-seater stadium in southeast London at the Crystal Palace Sports Centre. He has applied for planning permission and says he has the backing of the Sports Council. There are no plans yet to move his football team there.

The stadium will have 200 executive hospitality boxes and an underground coach and car park. Noades said the Sports Centre site was ideal.

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Gray: overawed on debut

Republic's stirring effort proves in vain

Turkey 1
Rep of Ireland 3

From PETER BALL
IN ISTANBUL

THE Republic of Ireland did all they could last night, their weakened team chalking up one of its most notable victories in the 54 games under Jack Charlton in front of a fiercely partisan crowd in Istanbul's Iononiu Stadium, but all in vain. The England draw in Poznan meant that Ireland's win was not enough to take them into the European championship finals.

But if it was failure it was a glorious one, particularly for John Byrne, who scored two goals and played an important role in the other in only his second international appearance of the year. But if Byrne could take particular pleasure, it was, as always, a team performance and there could be nothing but admiration for the way Ireland went about their task in an intimidating atmosphere with seven senior players missing.

It was not perhaps a footballing display to equal the one they had put on in Poland last month, but once again they played to their full potential and insisted the game was played the way they wanted it played, at their pace. They thus ensured that the power of Cascarino, the scorer of the other goal, was as decisive as expected.

Turkey's poor record in the competition had done nothing to dampen the local enthusiasm. As night fell two hours before kick-off, the Besiktas ground was a carnival of light as the packed crowd on the three tiers behind one goal swayed in unison waving lighted torches, while fire crackers punctuated the mass chants. A carnival, or an auto-da-fé for Ireland, one wondered.

Ireland had gone into the match knowing the importance of the result, but with a warning not to be too hasty in trying to achieve it. "They have 90 minutes in which to win it," Jack Charlton had remarked, but it was unnecessary warning on his part

as, inspired by the electric atmosphere, the home team began as if they themselves were pursuing a place in the finals rather than seeking their first win in 14 matches under Sepp Piontek.

They set about the Irish defence with some sweeping moves, only a desperate intervention by Phelan and then a poor header by Feyyaz saving Ireland from a serious early setback as three corners came in quick succession. Instead, Ireland proved the suspicion that the home side had a soft centre by taking the lead.

Cascarino was beaten to McCarthy's long throw, but a poor clearance fell to Byrne, who justified his first appearance since February by sending a perfectly controlled low left-foot volley past Hayrettin. That briefly quietened the chanting hordes, but any expectation that Turkey would quietly subside was instantly dispelled. Turhan ran strongly through midfield to release Orhan, and as Bonner dived to save at the forward's feet, Orhan went down spectacularly.

Mr Petrovic was impressed, pointing to the penalty spot. Riza stepped up to leave Bonner helpless and claim the honour of scoring Turkey's first goal in the competition on his club ground. Ireland's lead had lasted less than five minutes.

It could hardly have been worse timed for the visitors. The home side was re-invigorated and for some time looked as if it would make a match of it, but by the interval



Byrne: irresistible form

Ireland had hauled themselves back to parity as Cascarino's power in the air continued to disconcert the home defence.

Turkey's vulnerability was to be seen in five decisive minutes soon after the interval as Ireland took a firm grip on the game with two goals. Both came from aerial power, Cascarino scoring the first after Byrne's header from Staunton's cross was blocked.

The Sunderland forward was now in irresistible form, and four minutes later, in the 57th minute, he put Ireland two ahead as McCarthy headed back Sheedy's corner for him to head home joyfully from four yards.

TURKEY: Hayrettin (Fenerbahce), Necip (Besiktas), sub: Bulent (Gaziantep), Turhan (Fenerbahce), Golden (Besiktas), Feyyaz (Besiktas), sub: Feyyaz (Besiktas), Riza (Besiktas), Hamit (Trabzonspor), Ozyurt (Fenerbahce), Ozyurt (Trabzonspor).

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: P. Byrne (Derry), G. Hughes (Derry), J. Byrne (Derry), J. Byrne (Derry), J. Byrne (Derry), J. Byrne (Derry), J. Byrne (Derry), J. Byrne (Derry), J. Byrne (Derry), J. Byrne (Derry), J. Byrne (Derry).

هكذا من الامير